

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
Assistant Counsel, CBIA
Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
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Testifying in support of SB 426 An Act Concerning Employee Online Privacy

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA supports SB 426.

SB 426 raises some legitimate privacy concerns shared by both employers and employees. While we have not heard of any employers asking for a prospective employee's social media account passwords, we agree with the committee that the potential of it occurring should be addressed in a reasonable way.

In addition to the privacy concerns of employees, this bill provides flexibility to employers that need to address the very real threat of employee transfer of proprietary, confidential or financial data, as well as ensure their compliance with various legal and regulatory requirements. This bill is similar to language developed by the State Privacy and Security Coalition, which has been adopted by several other states.

We encourage the committee to support SB 426.