

Testimony for the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Public Hearing, Wednesday, March 18, 2015
HB 6639

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger, Senator Frantz, Representative Davis, and Members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Proposed House Bill 6639: An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Businesses that Hire Recent Graduates of Institutions of Higher Education Located in Connecticut.

My name is Sean Scanlon, and I am a State Representative from Guilford and Branford. My name is Caroline Simmons, and I am a State Representative from Stamford. We are here to testify today in support of HB 6639. The goal of this bill is twofold. First, to provide more job opportunities for recent graduates in CT, and second, to keep young, educated, and skilled workers in CT.

As the economy continues to recover and the unemployment rate in CT lags behind the national average, we as legislators need to do everything we can to help create jobs in our state. This specific tax credit proposal in HB 6639 aims to provide more job opportunities for recent graduates of Institutions of Higher Education in CT.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, between 2000-2013, the unemployment rate of young workers in CT under age 25 rose from 5.6 percent to 13.8 percent.¹ The underemployment rate (those who work part-time but want full-time work or have looked for a job in the last year but have given up actively seeking work) of young workers in CT is even higher and rose from 10.3 percent in 2000 to 24.8 percent in 2013.

The effects of the high unemployment rate among recent graduates have implications for CT's economic competitiveness, tax revenue for the state, as well as growing student loan debt. As such, we believe that targeted job growth and tax incentive programs for businesses will help alleviate the unemployment rate among recent graduates and keep young workers in CT.

We are proud to have bi-partisan support for this bill and we want to thank Senator Art Linares, Representative Christopher Davis, Representative Kelly Luxenberg, and Representative James Albis for their co-sponsorship of this bill. We believe strongly that we need to invest in young people to help our economy, create jobs, and make CT more competitive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and we hope you consider passing this bill.

¹ See: <http://s2.epi.org/files/2014/Classof2014FINAL.pdf>