



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
SUPPORTING
SB-744, AA ESTABLISHING A FIXED TIME PERIOD FOR AGENCY REVIEW
OF EXISTING REGULATIONS
BEFORE THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, NFIB/Connecticut offers the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut supports SB-744 and the intent behind this bill. This bill shortens the time period in which state agencies must submit to review of their existing agency regulations to four years. This positive piece of legislation represents a step in the right direction for Connecticut towards tackling issues of regulatory reform and state agency efficiencies. It should be noted, however, that while C.G.S. Sec. 4-189i(a) essentially requires a review of state agency regulations by the Regulations Review Committee of the legislature, it is unclear if, and to what extent, this has actually occurred in the recent past. Therefore NFIB/Connecticut is also supportive of oversight and efforts to ensure that not only the existing statutory requirements be fulfilled, especially the public hearing and other key requirements contained in subdivisions (b) and (c) of C.G.S. Sec. 4-189i, but also any changes to such requirement should SB-744 move forward.

In the 2012 edition of the "Small Business Problems & Priorities" report by the NFIB Research Foundation, "Unreasonable Government Regulations" ranked as the 5th greatest problem of concern from small business owners, up from its 6th position in 2008. Much like taxes, this generic problem category costs small businesses in several ways: understanding and keeping up-to-date with compliance requirements, costs of consultants, employee time, management time, direct outlays, lost productivity and/or sales, forgone opportunities, etc. The federal government alone proposes approximately 150 new rules every year that cost business owners over \$100 million per rule in compliance costs. Adding state and local laws and regulations that sometimes duplicate federal regulations, merely raise the cost and frustration level for small business. As such, NFIB/Connecticut is supportive of regulatory review efforts like those contained in SB-744. We thank both the proponent and the leadership and members of the GAE Committee for consideration of this legislation and we would be happy to work with interested parties in this endeavor.