



State of Connecticut

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Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 24, 2015

Testimony in support of **H.B. 5610 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR DEPARTMENT OVERSIGHT.**

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and the entire membership of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify before you this evening in support of H.B. 5610 *AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR DEPARTMENT OVERSIGHT*. This bill would require the Department of Labor to seek legislative approval prior to amending unemployment tax rates to businesses.

The Department of Labor has a responsibility to the State of Connecticut to ensure our workers are protected in times of unemployment. However, tax increases to cover unemployment loan deficits are plaguing Connecticut businesses. It is our duty, as a legislature, to mediate between the two entities and ensure unemployment tax policies are vetted properly prior to being enacted.

The Department of Labor is, and should remain, the leading stakeholder in forming unemployment tax policies. However, there must be a better consultation process with the General Assembly before tax rates are determined. In order for a tax rate to be approved, this bill would call for the legislature to ratify such approval. Thus, yielding the infrastructure to create a cohesive tax policy to address both needs of businesses and the unemployed.

In light of the aforementioned reasons, I would urge you and your colleagues to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Prasad Srinivasan
State Representative, 31st District