



State of Connecticut

SENATE

SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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RANKING MEMBER
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MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Rep. Tercyak, Sen. Gomes, Ranking Members Hwang and Rutigliano, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

I am Sen. Rob Kane, and I am testifying in opposition to H.B. No. 6791: An Act Concerning Workers' Wages at Large Corporations.

As many of you know, I have testified in the past against proposals which I feel send the wrong signal to the business community. As a small business owner, I feel I am qualified to make those assessments. In fact, one of the headlines I am most proud of is one from the Waterbury Republican American which said "Kane Goes Down Swinging" on the minimum wage hike legislation. This proposal would require any firm, business, school, corporation, LLC, or franchisor with over 250 employees to pay the Department of Labor a penalty for each employee that earns less than \$15 an hour. The penalty is equal to \$1 per employee per hour that employee worked while earning a wage of less than \$15 an hour.

For example: Let's say Rob Kane works at Subway, a corporation with more than 250 employees operating in Connecticut. Rob earns \$10 an hour. There are 299 other people just like Rob who also work at Subway earning \$10 an hour. If this legislation passes, Subway must pay the Connecticut Department of Labor \$1 per employee, per hour worked, on a quarterly basis or \$300 dollars (\$1 for each employee making less than \$15 an hour) times 520 hours in a quarter. That would amount to a \$156,000 fine per quarter, or \$624,000 a year. And that's just one example of one business.

Consider the message this bill would send if it passes – not just to Connecticut businesses which are here now, but to businesses around the country. The message would be this: Connecticut is not open for business. Connecticut is not getting out of businesses' way. Connecticut is hostile to business.

You have the opportunity to send the right message to businesses by voting against this bill. Please oppose House Bill 6791.

Sincerely,

State Senator Rob Kane

32nd District