



CONNECTICUT
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
March 3, 2015

Testifying in opposition to SB 986 An Act Requiring Employers To Enter Into Proprietary Interest Protection Agreements Prior To Receiving Financial Assistance From The State

Good afternoon Senator Winfield, 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 is opposed to SB 986.

A number of surveys released in the past year consistently ranked Connecticut as one of the highest cost and least business-friendly states. While this state has many virtues, the belief that Connecticut is a bad place to do business has spread across the nation. Business leaders pay attention to these surveys, and many make the choice to locate or grow their business elsewhere. This negative perception denies our citizens many job opportunities that could have helped advance their careers.

CBIA opposes this bill because it gives business leaders one more reason to create jobs and grow their businesses elsewhere. When we are trying to attract businesses to Connecticut and change the perceptions about the business climate, we should avoid setting ourselves apart from other states for the wrong reasons. Every day, our surrounding states are offering Connecticut businesses attractive economic development packages, with few strings attached, if they will consider relocating there. This bill ignores long standing employee unionization procedures and expedites it solely on the basis that their employer receives some assistance from the state. Bills like this only give Connecticut businesses one more reason to pack up and leave.

This is a short-sighted proposal. We urge the committee to take no further action on SB 986.