



CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
OPPOSING
SB-1037, AAC EMPLOYEE LIENS AGAINST EMPLOYERS FOR UNPAID WAGES
BEFORE THE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 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, I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut has series concerns with SB-1037 and urges rejection. This legislation sets terrible precedent by allowing for not only the state to claim a "lien" on *any* real or personal property in which an employer may have an interest, but also possibly private parties (employee liens – see new language in (b)). This legislation is not only unnecessary as there are many federal and state wage protection and labor laws already in place in for employees in Connecticut, but it also raises several legal and constitutional questions. For example, where are the due process protections for a potentially aggrieved employer whose private property interests may be subject to this "lien"? Merely providing an employer the opportunity to dispute a claim by filing a complaint in Superior Court is not enough. Better enforcement of existing wage laws in lieu of this legislation is the proper course to follow.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges lawmakers to take no action on SB-1037.