

FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

TESTIMONY of
Cindy Dubuque, MSW
Executive Director

**Raised Bills 5952 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PREFERENCE IN THE AWARD OF STATE CONTRACTS;
5954 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FOR DISABLED VETERAN CONTRACTORS; SB
51 AN ACT CREATING A SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FOR DISABLED VETERAN CONTRACTORS; and, SB
528 AN ACT PROVIDING JOB TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS**

February 17, 2015

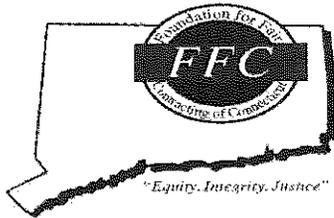
Honorable Senator Flexer, Honorable Representative Hennessey and esteemed members of the
Veteran Affairs Committee:

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut ("FFC-CT") submits this testimony in regards to
Raised Bills 5952 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PREFERENCE IN THE AWARD OF STATE CONTRACTS; 5954
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FOR DISABLED VETERAN CONTRACTORS; SB 51 AN
ACT CREATING A SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FOR DISABLED VETERAN CONTRACTORS; and, SB 528 AN
ACT PROVIDING JOB TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS

My name is Cindy Dubuque and I am the executive director of the Foundation for Fair Contracting
of Connecticut. The FFC-CT is an industry-sponsored organization. Our mission is to promote
compliance with laws and regulations relating to public works construction. Specifically, we focus
on issues concerning wages, classification of workers and apprenticeship standards.

I think that everyone agrees that veterans have served our nation admirably and need to be treated
with dignity and respect upon honorably discharging from the armed services. As such, there have
been many bills raised to provide opportunities for veterans to succeed personally and
professionally. While the spirit and intent behind these bills is admirable, we believe that the
intended goal of providing greater opportunity to veteran contractors within the construction
industry would not be realized through this legislation.

According to the Department of Administrative Services certified vendor contractors database,
there are currently only two certified veteran owned businesses with the state. One business
provides security services and the other is home improvement. Establishing a 3% set-aside
requirement for veteran and/or disabled veteran contractors on state and quasi-public agency



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contracts creates a demand that cannot be supplied. Unfortunately, this sort of requirement helps neither veterans nor the construction industry.

Instead, we recommend that the state's efforts continue to lie with supporting programs such as Helmets to Hardhats and programs that provide job skills and training for those who wish to become contractors once acquiring the necessary experience. Therefore, we support SB 528 AN ACT PROVIDING JOB TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS.

In addition, the Labor Committee is currently hearing testimony on SB 830 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO ASSIST MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES IN OBTAINING PERFORMANCE BONDS ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS. This proposed legislation would establish a program through which minority owned businesses who seek to enter into construction contracts may obtain bonds to secure performance in connection with work on construction projects. The FFC has submitted testimony regarding SB 830 suggesting that veterans be included in that legislation as a means of creating opportunities for veteran contractors. It is imperative that we set our veterans up for success by creating opportunities that make sense.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important matter.