



TESTIMONY OF  
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VICE PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 4, 2016  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents thousands of firms, which employ hundreds of thousands of women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA would like to comment upon the following bills: **HB 5086, HB5417, and SB 269.**

**HB 5086**

The bill asks the General Assembly to formally implement the cap approved by 81% of the electorate. We support it.

However, it must do more than just defines the general budget expenditures, which solves one part of the problem with the original constitutional amendment. It also needs to be clear on how a violation of the statute could be enforced. We need to be clear on who would have standing to go into court and enforce a violation of the constitutional spending cap. If not, the court would dismiss any lawsuit on either standing or, if not standing, political question doctrine. So, we suggest you amend the bill to have some kind of enforcement mechanism created by the law. A statement in the statute saying that any taxpayer has the authority to seek to enjoin certain payments if this provision is violated may be needed like that. And the specific remedy (what's being enjoined) must be stated in the bill to avoid the political question doctrine problem.

**HB 5417**

This bill provides greater accountability and calls for reporting and efforts to reduce overtime. We support it.

**SB 269**

The bill calls for a study of a 40 hour state employee work week. We feel such an effort could permit more reasonable staffing of 24/7 operations, like prisons. We feel properly implemented it should reduce overtime. We support the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.