



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony in Support of
**HB5423: An Act Encouraging Middle School and High School Students to Consider
Careers in Manufacturing
Commerce Committee
March 1, 2016**

Good day Chairman Hartley, Chairman Perone, Vice-Chair Vargas and Crisco, Ranking Members Camillo and Frantz, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak in **support** of HB5423 AN ACT ENCOURAGING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO CONSIDER CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING.

I couldn't wait for the language of this bill to be drafted so that I could add my name to what I think will be a long list of co-sponsors. This bill starts a long overdue conversation about skills-based education.

Over the past year I have visited several manufacturers in my district, attended the Southwestern Consortium of Manufacturers meetings, and participated in Manufacturing Day at Platt Technical High School. What I heard:

- Jobs exist
- Trained workforce is needed
- Image of manufacturing needs improving among young people
- The average manufacturing worker is 56

Taking inventory of all manufacturing programs and certifications available in our state is paramount to understanding gaps in certification programs, future needs in the industry and what needs to be done to meet them, and public policy that is needed to foster a skilled workforce.

We are always talking about STEM learning, what better way to inspire STEM-related education than through a re-introduction of the manufacturing industry to our middle-schoolers with hands-on, authentic industry experience.

I look forward to following the work of the committee formed through this legislation.

Respectfully,

Pam Staneski