



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

THEMIS KLARIDES  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5423**  
**Commerce Committee**  
**March 1, 2016**

Chairmen Perone and Hartley, Ranking Members Camillo and Scott and Members of the Commerce Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for raising **House Bill Number 5423: An Act Encouraging Middle School and High School Students to Consider Careers in Manufacturing.**

Our state has a valuable resource in the Connecticut Technical High School System. Students from across the state are currently participating in rigorous job training programs at our technical high schools. The bill before you today seeks to promote the valuable job training opportunities available to Connecticut students, with a particular focus on modern manufacturing.

House Bill 5423 requires the Commissioner of Education to collaborate with the Board of Regents for Higher Education to establish a committee of educators, agency officials, and representatives from the manufacturing industry to coordinate the education of middle school and high school students for careers in manufacturing. The committee shall compile a catalog of programs at public and private institutions in the state that offer training in the field of manufacturing. Further, this committee shall work together with the State Department of Education to develop and administer a program to introduce middle school and high school students to careers in manufacturing. The State Department of Education shall consult with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology to develop a best practices guide to help local and regional boards of education to incorporate relationships to manufacturing in their middle school and high school curricula.

The goal of this legislation is to expand on current collaborative relationships that exist between technical high schools and Connecticut businesses as well as institutions of higher education throughout the state. These are mutually beneficial relationships because manufacturers in Connecticut are in need of a

skilled workforce and these jobs provide Connecticut students with an opportunity to join a workforce offering competitive wages while remaining in their home state. Additionally, we would like to promote the opportunities available to students at technical schools beginning in middle school. It is important that as middle school students are deciding whether to apply to a technical high school they are aware of the opportunities that are available to them in the manufacturing field.

I urge the Commerce Committee to pass Raised Bill Number 5423 to encourage middle school and high school students to consider careers in modern manufacturing. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to provide Connecticut students with access to productive job training skills.