



Testimony of Sean Bradbury
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To the Commerce Committee
March 1, 2016

HB 5423 AN ACT ENCOURAGING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO CONSIDER CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING

Senator Hartley, Representative Perone, Senator Frantz, Representative Camillo, and members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to you today in support of HB 5423 AN ACT ENCOURAGING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO CONSIDER CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING on behalf of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system.

As a participating agency on the P20 Council and the Department of Economic and Community Development's Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Committee we have begun to reach out to students in middle school and high school, through programs designed around the topic of careers in the manufacturing workforce. The initiatives proposed in this legislation will help build on those efforts and help us reach even more students.

Additionally, the CSCU system received a 15 million dollar grant from the US Department of Labor to support the Connecticut Advancement Manufacturing Initiative (CAMI). Currently this initiative is creating a statewide awareness marketing campaign about advanced manufacturing opportunities for both students and industry.

We applaud the Commerce Committee for bringing this bill forward for consideration. Each year, employers raise their frustration that advanced manufacturing jobs go unfilled because of a lack of available talent. At CSCU, we believe it is critical to get young students interested in manufacturing, and aware of the great careers and salaries available to them through our higher education programs. HB 5423 will go a long way in supporting current efforts across state agencies and the private sector in supporting the manufacturing workforce pipeline in our state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at bradburys@ct.edu or 860-723-0017.