MetroHartford Alliance Statement in Opposition to Raised Senate Bill 445 - An Act Establishing a Bioscience and Health Data Network Collaborative Task Force

Connecticut General Assembly
Commerce Committee
March 15, 2016

The MetroHartford Alliance serves as the region’s economic development leader and the City of Hartford’s Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, arts and higher education institutions as well as the municipalities of North Central Connecticut. Our mission is to ensure that the region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent so that it thrives as one of the country’s premier places for all people to live, play, work, start and grow a business, and raise a family.

The Alliance encourages the members of the Commerce Committee to oppose Raised Senate Bill 445 - An Act Establishing a Bioscience and Health Data Network Collaborative Task Force.

The MetroHartford Alliance recognizes the vital importance of quality broadband internet service to the residents and employers of our state. Connecticut is fortunate to be able to offer industry-leading broadband speed to the vast majority of the state’s employers and residents. As recently as January 2016, the Federal Communications Commission showed that Connecticut’s telecom infrastructure makes our state a national leader in providing access to advanced telecommunications capability. This infrastructure, vital to Connecticut’s economic competitiveness, is the result of hundreds of millions of dollars in investment by private sector providers and the hard work of the thousands of Connecticut residents that they employ. These businesses and their employees pay taxes and invest their dollars in our communities. Additionally, these providers develop the innovations in speed and access that serve our state’s employers, including those in the bioscience, health care and insurance industries. Instead of fostering the development of an additional broadband network that could undermine Connecticut’s telecom employers and their employees, the state should instead treat our state’s private providers as the partners best positioned to lead efforts to build upon Connecticut’s solid foundation of broadband access and speed.

Connecticut’s private sector employers – including those in the broadband/telecom industry - generate the jobs and taxes that fund our state’s core government services; policies enacted by the legislature factor significantly in the decision making of these employers. Legislation that will harm our state’s employers’ ability to compete and succeed should be rejected by anyone committed to creating jobs in Connecticut.

For these reasons, the MetroHartford Alliance respectfully urges the members of the Commerce Committee to oppose Raised Senate Bill 445 - An Act Establishing a Bioscience and Health Data Network Collaborative Task Force.

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Competing for Jobs, Capital & Talent
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