



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
MARCH 2, 2016**

My name is Jennifer Herz and I am Assistant Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA has been representing Connecticut's employers for 200 years and today is proud to say the vast majority of our members are small companies employing less than 50 people.

**CBIA supports the concept in HB 5468 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Issues Relating to the Recruitment of Manufacturing Teachers.**

This challenge of finding teachers for manufacturing classes was raised at the initial meeting of the Manufacturing Caucus earlier this session. Connecticut's manufacturers play a vital role in our economy: there are nearly 4,500 manufacturing firms that employ 10% of all nonfarm jobs in the state.<sup>1</sup> The 2014 Survey of Connecticut's Manufacturing Needs estimated 9,300 manufacturing job openings at the end of last year.<sup>2</sup> The need for skilled workers is significant. Therefore, recruiting educators to ensure we can meet the training needs of our manufacturers is essential.

Many manufacturing training programs are at capacity and without experienced teachers it will be very challenging to grow the programs and meet the need of our manufacturers. Anecdotally, we have heard concerns about credentialing requirements as well as pay. Focusing on the barriers and finding creative means to address those hurdles as quickly and efficiently as possible is key.

CBIA looks forward to the opportunity to continue to work with you on this bill and this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer CBIA's comments.

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<sup>1</sup> 2014 Survey of Connecticut Manufacturing Workforce Needs:  
<http://www.cbia.com/resources/economy/reports-surveys/2014-survey-of-connecticut-manufacturing-workforce-needs/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www5.cbia.com/newsroom/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/MFG-Workforce\\_14.pdf?cldee=YnVkZGpAY2JpYS5jb20%3d&utm\\_source=ClickDimensions&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CD\\_NEWSROOM](http://www5.cbia.com/newsroom/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/MFG-Workforce_14.pdf?cldee=YnVkZGpAY2JpYS5jb20%3d&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CD_NEWSROOM) (See page 4)