



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
AT THE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
MARCH 7, 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 submits this testimony in opposition to SB 380 An Act Concerning the Exclusion of Student Performance Results of the Mastery Examination from Teacher Evaluations.**

One of Connecticut's most admired and competitive hallmarks is its talented workforce. It is vital that we continue to prepare our students for the next steps in their educational goals and equip them with the skills they will need to achieve and enjoy productive careers. Utilizing effective evaluations is an important tool to ensure continued student achievement growth.

A top concern for Connecticut's business community is ensuring that the next generation of students has the skills needed to enter the workforce. We all depend on effective teachers to prepare students for the next steps in their education careers and the work force. That preparation has become even more important in an increasingly competitive global economy. Evaluations are one way to ensure that the proper support and feedback is provided to teachers and other school leaders.

Furthermore, Connecticut's Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC) is continuing to meet to address the teacher evaluation system. PEAC is a group of key stakeholders including superintendents, board of education, principals and teachers. The group is charged with implementing the evaluation system and should finish its work.

**Additionally, CBIA submits this testimony in support of SB 379 An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force.**

Extending the reporting period for the taskforce as well as establishing a council should support efforts to recruit and retain minority teachers in our schools. This is an important issue to ensure we have a pool of diverse and qualified teachers for our students.

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