



Testimony of Louise DiCocco
Assistant Counsel, CBIA
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 16, 2016

Re: HB 5075, AAC Workers' Compensation

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Louise DiCocco and I am Associate Counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, but most of our members are small businesses of 50 or fewer employees.

HB 5075 would require the Labor Commissioner s to conduct a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the current workers' compensation system within Connecticut and report the findings of the Labor Committee on or before February 1, 2017

Connecticut's workers' compensation system is among the most efficient and fairest systems in the country and provides some of the most generous benefits. While CBIA doesn't find a study to be a cause for concern, we would be concerned with any changes that would fundamentally alter the current system. As you are aware, the workers' compensation reforms of 1993 made the workers' compensation more effective and efficient. Prior to the reforms costs were exorbitant and there was widespread abuse. If a study to determine the effectiveness of the workers' compensation system is to be undertaken by the Labor Commissioner, CBIA would be happy to comment on and provide input on specific recommendations that could potentially make the workers' compensation system more effective and efficient while preserving the current system. Thank you for your time and consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Louise DiCocco at louise.dicocco@cbia.com or 860-244-1169.



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Testimony of Lori J. Pelletier, President
Connecticut AFL-CIO
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 16, 2016

Senator Gomes and Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, on behalf of the over 200,000 union members and their families in our great state we present written testimony in favor of:

S.B. 66 (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING PAID SICK LEAVE TO SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONALS. (LAB)

Paraprofessionals are vital to our education system and without their dedication and love many of our most needy students would not be successful. In return for their devotion, these workers are often the least paid and the most overlooked. Yet because of the love they have for their students they roll up their sleeves and do whatever it takes for their students to succeed. The simple act of extending paid FMLA to these critical classroom professionals is a small token acknowledging the vital role and the value we place in this profession.

Thank you for holding this public hearing.

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