



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Testimony

**In Support of Proposed H.B 5261
An Act Concerning Operators of Athletic Activities, Coaches and Referees and the Employer-Employee
Relationship**

**Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 25, 2016**

Dear Chairman Gomes. Chairman Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and esteemed members of the Committee.

I write to you in support of **House Bill 5261 An Act Concerning Operators of Athletic Activities, Coaches and Referees and the Employer-Employee Relationship.**

This bill would create a law so that no employer-employee relationship would exist between the operator of any organized athletic activity and any individual who is retained by that operator such as a coach or referee unless both the operator and individual agree in writing to enter into an employer-employee relationship.

Currently, the Department of Labor has been conducting audits on youth sports organizations around the state. They have been handing out fines and penalties to those organizations by classifying all sub-contractors such as referees and clinicians as employees.

Should this practice continue, youth sports organizations will not be able to afford the over 30% increase in overhead without passing on the cost to parents. This increased financial burden will cause a decrease in the number of parents who enroll their kids and as a result many will have fewer opportunities to have fun and develop as athletes.

I am also concerned about the schools and clubs ability to procure referees for games. If a school needs to obtain a W-2 and identification prior to officiating and athletic event, it becomes difficult if not impossible for youth sports to function in the state of Connecticut.

By the very structure of an athletic event, an umpire never falls into the category of an employee of the teams in which they are officiating over. Yet the Department of Labor sees fit to attempt in advancing this outcome through their audit procedures. We need to set clear the long history of this relationship and protect youth sports.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent J. Candelora". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "V" at the beginning.

Vin Candelora

State Representative

86th Assembly District

Service North Branford, Durham, Guilford, and Wallingford