KEVIN LEMBO
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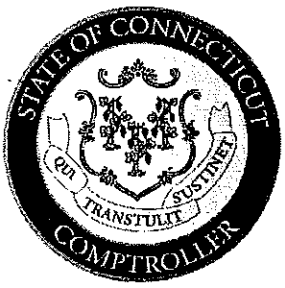

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
March 3, 2016

Concerning
R.B. No. 2 AA Supporting Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

Good afternoon Senator Flexer, Representative Hennessy, Senator Martin, Representative Yaccarino, and Members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 2 An Act Supporting Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.

Connecticut's veterans are an integral part of our community. They risk their lives in their service to our country, but often have difficulty re-entering civilian life. Many times veterans end up relying on state support services just to get by. These services are important but they can become costly to the state. If there are ways that we can intervene on the front end to decrease reliance on the state at the back end, it is important that we do so.

The concept of this bill does just that. This bill would decrease a bit of the burden on those veterans who are doing much more than just getting by. These veterans have not only re-entered their communities as productive taxpayers, but have taken the risk of starting up their own business to realize their piece of the American dream.

If we can make it easier for veterans to create and sustain local businesses, the backbone of our state, we can decrease reliance on state services and improve the quality of life for these veterans, as well as the economic productivity of our state.

Thank you for your time.

Kevin Lembo
State Comptroller