

March 2, 2016

**Testimony in Support of HB 5468**

Dear Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Kris Lorch and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Smaller Manufacturers (CASM). CASM is comprised of the Smaller Manufacturer's Association of Waterbury (SMA), the New Haven Manufacturer's Association (NHMA), Manufacturer's Education and Training Alliance (METAL) of Bridgeport and the New England Spring & Metal stamping Association and collectively represents over 400 companies with more than ten percent of the employees in the state's manufacturing sector. I am the co-chair of the NHMA Workforce Enhancement Committee and a manufacturer in Bridgeport, CT, since 1958.

Supplier Manufacturers Association

CASM agrees with HB5468 to establish a task force to study issues relating to the recruitment of manufacturing teachers in the CT Technical High Schools.

The bill has merit and will hopefully yield valuable information for the Department of Education to use. I do however have an additional request which will hopefully make the study more beneficial. The current system for hiring teachers does not have a fast track. The CTTHS interviews and makes an offer and then it takes months before the person is hired. The committee needs to examine restructuring the current hiring process to allow the district greater autonomy in hiring. Individuals should not have to wait months before they are hired as they often find jobs elsewhere before the process accepts a candidate.

I would also recommend changing item nine in the list of committee members to a representative from the Connecticut Association of Chamber of Commerce as they are working closely with the manufacturing businesses in their various territories. I know my own area would be Paul Timpanelli from the BRBC or Adam Ney from the Hartford area both have a passion for working with manufacturing and the Technical High Schools.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you regarding this bill and please know that the CASM supports passage.

**METAL**