

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOE ARESIMOWICZ  
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee. I am Representative Joe Aresimowicz of the 30<sup>th</sup> District, serving Berlin and Southington. I offer this testimony in support of HB 5468: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO THE RECRUITMENT OF MANUFACTURING TEACHERS.

Manufacturing is a growth area in our economy. I have heard repeatedly from manufacturers in my district that they need more trained workers. Which is why, I am proud of the work we have done over the past several years to develop programs to train the next generation of manufacturing workers. We have invested in updating our technical high schools and building Advanced Manufacturing Centers at our public colleges. These programs have a remarkable success rate in placing students in jobs, many are even offered positions before they graduate.

We need to build on this progress and continue our work to develop these programs. I am working on a bill now with the esteemed Minority Leader, Representative Themis Klarides, that will give us the tools we need to determine the number of trained workers we need in the various jobs in manufacturing, track our progress in training those future workers, and market these programs to middle and high school students. The bill will hopefully increase demand for these programs even more.

However, if these programs are going to expand, we will need teachers. This is an area where there is already a shortfall. I have heard from those within the Board of Regents that recruiting manufacturing teachers is one of their biggest hurdles. My understanding is that a significant percentage of teachers in this area work on both the college level and high school level because there are simply not enough teachers to go around.

Teachers in this area not only need to be able to relate to and teach our kids, but they need to have specialized skills in manufacturing. These individuals are a rare find.

This bill will put the necessary parties around the table to discuss this issue and provide recommendations about how we can recruit teachers in this area to meet the demand of our students. I look forward to their recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration.