



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
FEBRUARY 24, 2016**

My name is Jennifer Herz and I am Assistant Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA has been representing Connecticut's employers for 200 years and today is proud to say the vast majority of our members are small companies employing less than 50 people.

**CBIA encourages your support of Section 5 of SB 175 An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Department of Education.**

CBIA supports Section 5 of the bill because it builds upon steps taken last year to expand our pool of qualified teachers through reciprocity with other states. Good teachers are vital to developing our workforce. Ensuring the Department of Education has the tools it needs to recruit effective teachers is essential. This bill supports both points.

As teachers retire the state must support a pipeline of talented teachers to continue to ensure the state's next generation has the support they need in our classrooms. It is clear teachers have a significant impact on student achievement and this bill allows the state to recruit qualified teachers.

CBIA encourages you to support Section 5 of SB 175.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.