



Testimony of Eric Gjede
Vice President of Government Affairs, CBIA
Before the Government Administration & Elections Committee
Hartford, CT
March 25, 2019

**Testifying in support of
HB 7385: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND CHANGES TO
AFFIRMATION, AFFIDAVIT, AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE STATE CONTRACTS.**

Good afternoon Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Sampson, Representative France and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am vice president of government affairs at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which represents thousands of large and small companies throughout Connecticut.

CBIA supports HB 7385.

Any effort that helps to streamline the way the state contracts with and regulates businesses is worthy of consideration. HB 7385 helps to reduce and modify the number of affirmations, certifications and affidavits contractors are required to submit for certain large state contracts. While ensuring contractors abide by all ethical and legal requirements is important, it is also important to recognize that the significant number of legal documents required for the execution of one of these contracts is often a barrier for smaller contractors, particularly minority and women-owned firms, that wish to do business with the state.

We support HB 7385 as a starting point for the conversation about balancing the need to ensure the ethical and legal compliance for state contractors while preventing such considerations from being an administrative or financial deterrent for competition for state contracts from emerging businesses.