

# Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-854

AN ACT PROMOTING CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DEMAND

**Title:** FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS.

**Vote Date:** 3/14/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/21/2019

**File No.:** 258

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## SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Gresko

Rep. Borer

Rep. Vargas

## REASONS FOR BILL:

Committee Substitute Bill No. 854 encourages guidance counselors and school counselors to provide materials concerning manufacturing, military and law enforcement careers to students, requires local and regional school district boards of education to develop goals for career placement for students choosing not to pursue an advanced degree, and establishes a task force to study demand for career and technical education teachers in the state.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

1. **Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of the Department of Education**: While supportive of the spirit of the legislation, Wentzell says that the Department cannot support the legislation as written because its mandate would operate in direct violation of Every School Succeeds Act:
2. **Steven Hernández, Executive Director of the Commissions on Women, Children and Seniors (CWCS). Equity and Opportunity (CEO)**: Citing workforce shortages in the state of Connecticut, Hernández spoke on behalf of CWCS saying that the organization supports the legislation in its efforts to make information about job training

for the manufacturing sector more accessible to Connecticut students, particularly students of color and for those in economically distressed areas.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

1. **Michelle Allinson**: Allinson, an owner of Aerospace Alloys Inc., a small business in the manufacturing industry, voiced her support for this legislation because she believes the bill will help train and expand the next generation of Aerospace sector workers.
2. **Timothy K. Backus**: Backus believes that this bill will support manufacturing growth in Connecticut and the industry's future workforce.
3. **Connecticut Manufactures' Collaborative (CMC)**: Citing statutes which offer incentives for high school guidance counselors to not suggest manufacturing as a career path for Connecticut students, the CMC urges the committee to support legislation which would amend this language to require these educators provide information on manufacturing careers to inquiring students.
4. **Chris Greasy, President of Accu-Rite Tool & Manufacturing Co., Inc.**: Greasy supports this legislation because he says it will have a direct impact on the future of manufacturing in Connecticut.
5. **Rebecca L. Karabin, Co-President of the Acme Monaco Corporation**: Karabin expressed her support for the bill.
6. **Lynette Nadeau, President of Southington Tool**: Nadeau expressed her support for this bill.
7. **Paul Murphy, Executive Director of the Aerospace Components Manufacturers (ACM)**: Writing on behalf of ACM membership, Murphy expressed the organization's overwhelming support for the legislation.
8. **Marc Nemeth**: Nemeth supports the bill because he believes it will strengthen Connecticut's education system and job training offerings for students.
9. **Kasey J. Plante**: Referring to increased demand for skilled workers in the industry, Plante wrote in favor of the proposed legislation.
10. **Cameron Romeo**: Romeo supports this legislation because not all students are destined for advanced degrees and believes that this legislation will help those looking for alternative career paths succeed.
11. **Jamison Scott, Executive Director of the New Haven Manufacturers Association (NHMA)**: Scott writes on behalf of NHMA in support of the proposed legislation.
12. **Pedro Soto**: Soto wrote in support of the legislation as it encourages students who do not want to pursue a four-year degree to look into alternative careers in manufacturing.

13. **Tim Ulles, President/CEO of Numet Machining**: Ulles writes on behalf of Numet machining in support of the legislation. :
14. **Cyndi Zoldy, Executive Director of Small Manufacturers' Association (SMA)**: Zoldy voiced support for the legislation. The SMA currently supports several area technical and comprehensive high schools and believes that students should be encouraged to explore life-long career paths that don't require advanced degrees.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

1. **Virginia DeLong, Connecticut School Counselor Association (CSCA)**: Speaking on behalf of the CSCA, DeLong appreciated the committee's efforts on the matter of promoting career choice in schools, but was concerned with the language that mandated actions be taken on a unilateral basis.

**Reported by: Emmet Teran**

**Date: 4/1/19**