



Testimony of Eric Gjede
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Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
February 26, 2019

**Testifying on
HB 6921: AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON A PERSON'S CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Good afternoon Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Miner, Representative Polletta and members of the Labor and Public Employees 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.

Although it is unclear what legal changes are being proposed in HB 6921, CBIA would like to offer to work with the committee on the bill as it is developed.

Businesses in Connecticut are under incredible pressure to ensure they provide safe workplaces for employees. Every year, lawmakers propose measures that increase the employers' liability for incidents occurring in the workplace while at the same time attempting to eliminate tools used by businesses to screen potentially problematic employees.

Connecticut businesses are already subject to many legal requirements that prohibit discrimination against individuals based on criminal history. Further, in recent years, CBIA helped this committee craft language that removed questions about criminal history from employment applications.

We look forward to working with the committee on HB 6921.