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Commerce Committee
February 27, 2020
LOB 1E 11:00AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill #167
An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Businesses
that Hire Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

Chairwoman Hartley, Chairwoman Simmons, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill #167, *An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Businesses that Hire Formerly Incarcerated Individuals*.

For the transcript, my name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

Last summer, I had the pleasure to join Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz on a tour of AC Linen Supply in Norwich. AC Linen is a commercial laundry and dry cleaning company and is the largest participant in the state's Second Chance program. Partnering with the Department of Corrections has proven to be an excellent experience for AC Linen and program participants alike. Many former incarcerated individuals have been hired by AC Linen.

In order to enhance the opportunities for individuals and employers under this program, I believe establishing this tax credit would help incentivize other companies throughout the state to join this highly successful program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill #167. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.