Testimony of Ashley Zane
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Before the Commerce Committee
Hartford, CT
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Testifying in support of:

HB 6607: AN ACT INCENTIVIZING THE ADOPTION OF CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS FOR BUSINESSES

My name is Ashley Zane and I am a Government Affairs Associate for CBIA, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, with thousands of member companies, small and large, representing a diverse range of industries from across the state. Ninety-five percent of CBIA member companies have 100 or fewer employees.

I am here in support of HB 6607, An Act Incentivizing the Adoption of Cybersecurity Standards for Businesses. This bill would allow a business, that experiences a data breach of personal or restricted information, to plead an affirmative defense if that business has adopted a cybersecurity framework.

This bill parallels the Department of Homeland Security Safety Act which was designed to protect suppliers of technologies and services focused on anti-terrorism and cybersecurity. HB 6607 provides further incentives for companies to invest in cybersecurity compliance which is becoming increasingly critical as businesses shift to a remote and electronic centered world. Investing in cybersecurity is an expensive decision that requires a company to dedicate time, staffing, and financial resources in order to be successful. This bill creates a straightforward return on investment for those companies.

The frameworks laid out in the bill are all solid and well adopted frameworks in the cybersecurity community. CBIA would also like to encourage the legislature and future legislatures to keep an open mind to other frameworks that include necessary safeguards and are better alternatives for specific industries as the digital world evolves.

In conclusion, CBIA supports this piece of legislation and please do not hesitate to reach out to CBIA or our affiliate organization, CONNSTEP, with any additional questions or concerns.