



Testimony of Eric Gjede
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Before the Labor & Public Employees Committee
Hartford, CT
February 18, 2021

**Testifying in opposition to
HB 6343: AN ACT ENSURING FAIR EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS FOR GIG WORKERS**

Good afternoon Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Sampson, Representative Arora and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am the vice president of government affairs for CBIA, the Connecticut Business & 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 our member companies are small businesses with less than 100 employees.

CBIA is opposed to concept outlined in HB 6343.

"Gig economy" jobs, like app-based delivery and transportation network companies are creating economic opportunities for thousands of individuals in the state. Citizens are choosing these economic opportunities over traditional jobs because they can be their own bosses, capable of setting their working hours to meet the flexibility needs of other jobs, classes, or familial commitments.

Gig economy jobs are allowing individuals in the state to earn hundreds of millions of dollars every year and fill an important niche in our state's economy. They allow individuals subject to social distancing and quarantine requirements to offering the option to have food and medicine delivered and provide alternatives to mass transit transportation. They are also helping to support small local restaurants and businesses.

We encourage lawmakers to embrace the beneficial alternative business models used by these companies rather than seek to unnecessarily regulate them.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to oppose HB 6343.