



Christian L. DiPentima
President & Chief Executive Officer

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Edward M. Lamont
Governor, State of Connecticut
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

On behalf of CBIA member companies and the many undersigned businesses and organizations below, I write in support of your publicly stated intent to veto HB 5431: *AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STABILIZATION SUPPORT AND ARPA REPLACEMENT FUND*.

HB 5431 is intended to create a special taxpayer-funded account to pay striking private sector employees. Our concerns are based both on policy grounds and the process surrounding its adoption, and we strongly agree with your publicly stated criticisms of the bill.

As a matter of policy, long-standing employee protections under state and federal law already achieve the proper balance between the unemployment system's policy goals and collective bargaining rights. That balance is critical. While workers have the right to organize, bargain collectively, and strike, those rights should not be subsidized by taxpayers.

In addition, HB 5431 lacks any direction, standards, or oversight as to how millions of dollars of public money will be spent. The lack of standards also represents an inappropriate delegation of spending power to the Office of Comptroller.

The process by which HB 5431 was adopted also undermines public confidence in the normal democratic process, as the substance of the bill was completely changed by a last-minute amendment, bypassing critical scrutiny and public input. As you noted in your post-session remarks, if lawmakers "want to have public dollars to support striking workers, have a vote up or down."

As a matter of process, the bill sends the wrong message about Connecticut's commitment to transparency and meaningful debate.

As a matter of policy, HB 5431 sends a terrible message to businesses and undermines Connecticut's economic competitiveness by unfairly tipping the balance between employee and employer.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to veto HB 5431.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



- Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce
- Connecticut Lodging Association
- Connecticut Tooling & Machining Association
- Danbury Regional Chamber of Commerce
- General Dynamics Electric Boat
- Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
- Hobson & Motzer
- ManufactureCT
- Manufacture Education and Training Alliance
- Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
- National Federation of Independent Business
- New England Spring & Stamping Association
- Schwerdtle Inc.
- Smaller Manufacturers Association
- Southington Chamber of Commerce
- Windham Region Chamber of Commerce
- Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce