



Waterbury Regional Chamber  
*driving business to business*

Testimony of Lynn Ward, President & CEO  
Waterbury Regional Chamber  
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee,  
Hartford, CT  
March 20, 2023  
Testifying in opposition to:

**HB 6462 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOUPMENT OF STATE COST ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS.**

Good afternoon, Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, Senator Sampson, Representative Ackert and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. The Waterbury Regional Chamber, which serves 14 towns in the greater Waterbury region and represents the collective interests of 900 members in matters of public policy and economic development, **strongly opposes HB 6462 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOUPMENT OF STATE COST ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS.**

House Bill-6462, would require nonprofit organizations with over 500 employees to pay a quarterly fee on each of their employees who use State assistance including, but not limited to the HUSKY health program.

Many proponents of this bill have raised the point that it only targets big businesses who can afford to pay this money back to the state. Not only is this discriminatory towards Connecticut's larger non-profit business leaders, but it also hides the inevitable truth of the negative impact many small businesses and "low-skilled" workers will feel as a direct affect. To pay the penalties proposed in HB 6462, businesses will have to increase their prices or reduce costs by cutting available work hours. The state of Connecticut could see one or more of our larger non- profit employers leave the state due to these harsh new mandates being proposed. In doing this, the only real people to be affected are those employees working for these companies.

While this legislation may be viewed as a way to collect rightful dues from bigger corporations and companies, these employers can just as easily leave Connecticut and relocate to a state far more business friendly as we've seen time and time again. Instead, the only people it truly negatively affects are those thousands if not tens of thousands of employees wor0.

..king for what they thought was a secure job.

In conclusion, Connecticut's businesses, both large and small, deserve the few amenities left for them to grasp onto, especially in this economy. While some see this legislation as a way to help those struggling within the state, in the long run it will do just the opposite. We strongly urge the committee to take no action on HB 6462.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Ward". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Lynn Ward

President & CEO