



Testimony of Ashley Zane
Government Affairs Associate, CBIA
Before the General Law Committee
Hartford, CT
February 23, 2021

Testifying in support of:

HB6445: AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OCCUPATIONS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.

My name is Ashley Zane and I am a Government Affairs Associate for 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 6445, An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Department of Consumer Protections. This bill allows the Department of Consumer Protections to issue professional licenses to individuals who move into the state or are spouses of military members who have held a professional license for at least one year and in good standing. It also requires the individual to pay all fees and complete all required testing before the license can be issued.

CBIA strongly supports this effort to remove barriers to the recognition of out of state professional licenses. This bill will help increase the eligible workforce and encourage continued migration into our state. CBIA in particular, supports the inclusion of active military member spouses in this bill. Ninety percent of military spouses are female with one third of these spouses working in licensed fields. Barriers to licensure can create significant employment challenges and dissuade these individuals from making Connecticut their home.

HB 6445 I makes it clear to residents of other states that Connecticut is open for business. With increasing job deficits in high-paying sectors, the state should be encouraging skilled workers to come here. CBIA also supports the ability for the Commissioner to deny a license in order to maintain the public safety and health of residents. Connecticut has some of the highest standards across the country for licensure which does result in some of the highest quality work products in the country. This bill strikes a balance between ensuring quality and streamlining the process.

We urge the committee to support HB 6445, and we are happy to address any question or concerns.