



Testimony of Ashley Zane
Government Affairs Associate, CBIA
Before the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Hartford, CT
March 9, 2021

Testifying in support of:

**HB 5668: AN ACT REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A
MICROCREDENTIAL PILOT PROGRAM**

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 5668, An Act Requiring the Office of Higher Education to Establish a Microcredential Pilot Program. In consultation with the Board of Regents, this bill would require the Office of Higher Education to create a virtual platform for state residents to register and renew microcredentials.

CBIA supports this bill as a way to streamline and increase accessibility to the credentialing process. Microcredentials are a way to skill-up in various industries and acknowledge specific skill sets acquired through continuing and additional education. Microcredentials and the use of badges are quickly becoming an emerging path within education using shorter and more affordable programs to focus on specific specialty areas.

CBIA sees this as a benefit for all sectors ranging from advanced manufacturing to the insurance industry. CBIA also supports the provision in line 36 through 37 which requires the credential provider to indicate if it is industry recognized. This helps to align the education system with workforce needs. This bill is another step closer to providing state residents with a competitive advantage over their counterparts in neighboring states who do not have microcredentials or easy renewal and access to information to attain them.

In conclusion, CBIA supports this piece of legislation and please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns the committee may have moving forward.

