



Testimony on Senate Bill 359

February 21, 2019

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Isabel Blank. I am Manager, External Affairs at the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, and I am writing to testify in support of **Senate Bill No. 359: An Act Extending Whistleblower Protections to Employees of Businesses Receiving Financial Assistance from the State**. For questions or follow up, please contact me at isabel@yankeeinstitute.org.

Connecticut has well-developed whistleblower protections. We commend the legislature for passing laws that ensure our workers who help eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse and protect public health and safety are protected themselves. It makes sense to extend these protections to employees of businesses who receive economic development financial assistance from the state through the passing of **Senate Bill 359**.

On the federal level, the False Claims Act already helps to protect whistleblowers who expose companies, individuals, and contractors who defraud the government with respect to government funds, including grants and payments from the government for goods and services. Passing similar language at the state level will protect honest workers exposing abuse while simultaneously promoting the honest use of our tax dollars by external businesses and ensuring transparency.

For these reasons, we urge you to support **Senate Bill 359**.