

KEVIN LEMBO
STATE COMPTROLLER



MARTHA CARLSON
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

**Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
February 23, 2017**

**Concerning
R.B. 7064: An Act Extending the Manufacturing Apprenticeship Tax Credit to Pass-Through
Entities**

Senator Hartley, Representative Simmons, Senator Frantz, Representative Yaccarino and members of the Commerce Committee:

Thank you for raising this legislation and for the opportunity to show my support for expanding opportunities for middle class workers, and leveling the playing field for small businesses in Connecticut.

I have long supported apprenticeship programs in Connecticut. Learning a skill or trade alongside an experienced mentor, or within an established company, is an excellent means of beginning a new career. Using the benefit of focused, hands-on experience, apprenticeships often develop into well-paying, middle class jobs.

The Manufacturing Apprenticeship Tax Credit has been an effective tool in providing employers with an incentive to train new workers. Companies are able to customize their apprenticeship programs to meet the needs of their industry. The result is a knowledgeable, skilled and stable pipeline of qualified workers. According to the US Department of Labor, 91 percent of trainees completing an apprenticeship program are still employed nine months later.

Extending the availability of these tax credits to S corporations and limited liability companies will increase access to programs for those seeking to learn a trade, and will provide the benefits of apprenticeship to small businesses within the state.

Our economy depends on a skilled workforce and the success of our local businesses – big and small. This proposed legislation seeks to promote both.

I urge your support. Thank you.