



An Act to Reduce the Cost of Business Ownership

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Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
December 18, 2013

My name is Paul D. Craney and I am the Executive Director of Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, a right of center economic, fiscal and good government non-profit organization located at 101 Tremont St, Boston. Our website is www.MassFiscal.org and our legislative scorecard is www.MassFiscalScorecard.org.

Thank you for letting me have this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding H.1742 pertaining to annual filing fees for certain businesses.

According to a CNBC study, Massachusetts currently ranks 47th in the nation for the cost of doing business. It also ranks 34th in the nation for corporate tax climate and 49th in the nation for unemployment insurance tax according to the Tax Foundation. Overall, this paints a picture of a state that is not only not trying to attract more businesses, it is doing what it can to keep them away, in turn keeping more jobs away.

H.1742 gives a small but needed break for LLC's as it waives the initial organization and annual filing fees, and reduces the annual report filing fee from \$500 to \$125. This reduction in fees will help promote small start-up businesses and make it easier on them by getting rid of one of many hurdles they must be set to overcome. On behalf of Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, entrepreneurs and small business owners across the Commonwealth, we hope the Labor Committee will do everything they can to advance this commonsense proposal. It's long overdue.

For the first time in six years, it looks as though the jobless rate in Massachusetts will be higher than the national average of 7%. We must focus on creating a business friendly climate in the state in order to be the national leader in job creation.

Thank you again for providing Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance an opportunity to testify. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at paul@massfiscal.org or Laurie Belsito, our Legislative Director, at laurie@massfiscal.org.