



David Lehman,
Commissioner

***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE***

February 12, 2020

*David Lehman, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development*

FY2021 Budget Presentation

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Representative Lavielle and members of the Appropriations committee. My name is David Lehman, and I am commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you concerning Governor Lamont's proposed FY2021 midterm budget adjustments for economic and community development.

As you know, our mission at DECD is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting Connecticut's arts, cultural and tourism assets.

As you can see, the Governor's FY2021 budget has made some minor adjustments to our agency's budget, which will not have an impact on our day-to-day operations. Perhaps most notably, the Governor's budget transferred one position to support the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and the Governor's Workforce Council. This newly reconstituted Council is responsible for collaborating with the business community and knocking down barriers among state government agencies so that Connecticut can have the highest quality, equitable and most effective workforce development system in the country. Training and retaining top talent in our state is crucial to our long-term fiscal health as best in class workforce education is a key driver of long-term economic growth. As such, DECD supports this reallocation of resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration. At this time, I am happy to answer any questions that you have.