



**Susan Bysiewicz**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

February 23, 2021

Sen. Maroney, Rep. D'Agostino, Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Gibson, Sen. Witkos, Rep. Rutigliano, and the honorable members of the General Law Committee:

As chair of the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, I am writing to express the Council's support of **HB 6445 An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed By The Department Of Consumer Protection.**

Upon taking office in January 2019, one of our administration's first actions was to form the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, comprised of the Governor's cabinet members, representatives from each of the other constitutional offices and representatives from each of the four major legislative caucuses. The mission of the council is to provide a coordinated state response to issues that impact the lives of women, girls, their families, and the State of Connecticut. The council is charged with focusing on four areas of impact, each represented by its own subcommittee: education and STEAM; economic opportunity and workforce equity; leadership; and health and safety. The council, through its subcommittees, works with an over 100 organization Steering Committee of organizations that voluntarily dedicate their time to support council priorities and assist us in our work to make equality and advancement for women and girls a true state-wide effort.

The Council on Women and Girls is supporting this legislation particularly for the provisions in Section 1 impacting military spouses, over 90% of which are women. I am grateful to Office of Military Affairs Executive Director Robert Ross for raising during a Council meeting the issue of military spouses having difficulty working within their occupation after moving to a different state, as may be required for their spouse with a new military assignment. We thank the Governor for proposing this bill which responds to this issue by creating a smoother process for military spouses to maintain occupational licenses when moving to the State of Connecticut.

As noted above, economic opportunity and workforce equity is a priority for the Council. Given the mobility of our military men and women, who risk their lives for our protection, it is important that we remove any unnecessary barriers for their spouses to have gainful employment when moving to our state. We certainly do not want to discourage spouses from also making the move for fear of not being able to work. Improving the occupational licensing process is advantageous to our military families and our economy.



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The members of the Council on Women and Girls and I are committed to working with the General Law Committee to further advance this legislation. We are looking forward to partnering with you in these efforts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Bysiewicz".

Susan Bysiewicz  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Connecticut