



## CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

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MICHELLE H. SEAGULL | COMMISSIONER

### Testimony of Michelle Seagull Commissioner of Consumer Protection

### General Law Committee Public Hearing, February 23, 2021

#### **HOUSE BILL 6445 “AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OCCUPATIONS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION”**

Senator Maroney, Senator Witkos, Representative D’Agostino, Representative Rutigliano and Honorable Members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding House Bill 6445, An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection.

This proposal from Governor Lamont would allow for those who move to Connecticut, or those married to active duty members of the armed forces who are being stationed in Connecticut, to obtain an occupational or professional license, registration or certification from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) under certain conditions. The applicant must hold a valid license, permit, certification or registration in at least one other jurisdiction and have practiced under that credential for at least a year, and must pass any examination required of others applying for the same credential, unless they have taken an exam acceptable to DCP, or there is a reciprocal arrangement with the jurisdiction in which the person is currently credentialed.

This bill would also clarify which background issues may result in the denial of an applicant and creates a review process of how state agencies conduct background checks to

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determine if there is a more equitable, consistent and efficient way for the state to conduct background checks and make licensing decisions based on the results.

DCP is happy to continue to work with the Governor's office and this Committee as this bill makes its way through the legislative process.