



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

March 2, 2021

**STATEMENT OF THE WATERBURY REGIONAL CHAMBER TO THE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING PROPOSED SENATE BILL 851:
AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Senator Haskell, Representative Elliot, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, my name is Joshua Rodriguez, I am the Director of Public Policy & Economic Development for the Waterbury Regional Chamber. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this legislation.

The Waterbury Regional Chamber, which serves 14 communities in Greater Waterbury and represents the interests of nearly 1,000 member businesses on matters of public policy, strongly supports the proposed Senate Bill 851, An Act Concerning Workforce Development.

The Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce membership has and continues to support the Regional Workforce Development Boards and system as an essential collaborative partnership between employers and job seekers. The regional boards are an essential component connecting job opportunities, potential employees, and regionally available and accessible training and education.

Our members know the skills they need and how to access workforce training through a known and proven regional board made up of their peers and educators and local elected officials with eyes on local business needs.

This system promises to be pivotal as the influx of new residents and the recovery of our state economy demand education and job training for new opportunities and filling needs especially in small manufacturing and small business.

-MORE-

Enhancing and further funding the local access and decision making on the ground in our communities has a proven track record with the Workforce Investment Boards under federal law. This same local connection and decision-making have been the backbone of our state's success in battling Covid-19. For these reasons, the Chamber asks the committee to approve the proposed Senate Bill 851.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Joshua Rodriguez
Director of Public Policy and Economic Development