

**Susan N. Adamsen
150 Drum Hill Road
Wilton, CT 06897
(917) 693-2715**

Friday, March 26, 2021

RE: Testimony regarding Senate Bill 885 An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government.

Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Susan Adamsen and I am a Partner of Social Venture Partners-CT and a retired executive of JPMorgan Chase. I would like to testify concerning S.B. 885 An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government. My testimony is informed by direct interactions with the GWC and the OWS over a sustained period of time.

Section 11 of S.B. 885, outlines the creation and the codification of the Office of Workforce Strategy under the leadership of the Chief Workforce Officer of Connecticut. I am very supportive of the responsibilities of the OWS and Chief Workforce Officer and believe they are crucial to continuing the positive momentum of the state's recent workforce development efforts. The OWS has played an integral role in bringing all stakeholders together in a collaborative way to identify and develop pathways to meet the talent needs of employers in our state. This work has required extensive coordination and outreach to ensure that all voices are heard, and it is grounded in the knowledge that without robust economic growth, our state will lose jobs and the opportunity gap will widen beyond already unacceptable levels.

Over the past 18 months, I have supported the GWC's work to build career pathways in Business Services and Information Technology, and have closely examined the Adult Education system in CT. While there are passionate and devoted leaders and practitioners who have worked tirelessly for years to bring about positive change, in the end they are asked to "do more with less" and the well-identified shortcomings persist. I have studied best practices in other states, and in every case, innovation and meaningful improvements were made possible when bold and fresh thinking was embraced. This takes strong leadership and having the courage to challenge the status quo. I believe that this can only happen through the OWS, as it can bring all parties together in a constructive way and can coordinate an incredibly complex set of policies across "cradle to grave" education, supportive services, private sector talent needs and public policy.

I urge you to approve S.B. 885, and in particular, Section 11. We have no time to lose in seeing this critical work through to completion.

Best regards,

Arsan N. Adnan