

Testimony of Marna P. Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer, Yale New Haven Health

**Submitted to the
Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2021**

SB 885, AA Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government

Thank you for providing an opportunity to submit testimony in support of section 11 of SB 885, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government.

Section 11 outlines the creation and the codification of the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) under the leadership of the Chief Workforce Officer of Connecticut. As a member of the Governor's Workforce Council, I am supportive of the responsibilities outlined in SB 885 of both the OWS and Chief Workforce Officer. The Office of Workforce Strategy has been impactful at coordinating the State's workforce efforts, and I am confident in its ability to execute on the difficult and exciting work that lies ahead.

The primary goal of the Governor's Workforce Council (GWC) and the Office of Workforce Strategy is to ensure that Connecticut develops the most accessible, equitable, and high-quality workforce in the country. To achieve this goal, the Governor's Workforce Council released its strategic plan on workforce development in October 2020. The Plan includes 19 strategic initiatives which are critical to the development of a high-performing overall system. These initiatives require the involvement of hundreds of stakeholders to ensure an array of perspectives is informing the recommendations and implementation. Since the inception of the Governor's Workforce Council, the Office of Workforce Strategy has been effective in working with stakeholders across the state, to execute the goals and objectives of the Plan.

As a member of the Governor's Workforce Council, I have observed firsthand the influence that the OWS has in executing on the initiatives outlined in the strategic plan, and expertise in engaging with businesses, educators, and community organizations to build, in real-time, a more agile and coordinated workforce. OWS has demonstrated an ability to engage and work with a variety of stakeholders, and to align them within a unified State strategy.

I urge your support of section 11 of SB 885, to ensure that this necessary and important work continues. Thank you for your consideration.