



March 24, 2021

Committee on Appropriations
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Senate Bill 885: An Act Implementing the Governor’s Budget Recommendations for General Government

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and members of the Committee on Appropriations:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 885: An Act Implementing the Governor’s Budget Recommendations for General Government. We are writing in support of Section 11 of the Act, which establishes the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for administration and under the state’s Chief Workforce Officer for substantive direction.

AdvanceCT is a business-driven, member-funded nonprofit with a mission to grow the Connecticut economy through business formation, recruitment, expansion and retention. Convening businesses, governments, higher education institutions and nonprofits to create high-impact solutions, AdvanceCT is committed to making Connecticut a competitive state for business location and a leader in inclusive economic growth and job creation.

AdvanceCT works in close and effective partnership with both DECD and OWS. Having a skilled workforce is critical to achieving our respective missions. Virtually every business location or expansion decision involves workforce projections. In addition, our goal of growing an equitable and sustainable innovation economy in Connecticut requires workforce upskilling to living wage jobs. My role as an ex-officio member of the Governor’s Workforce Council reflects this mission alignment.

As the state’s workforce experts, OWS has provided valuable support to AdvanceCT on numerous business recruitment, expansion and retention projects, supplying targeted information on existing and planned industry workforce programs. The Act’s proposed structure will enable OWS to continue to provide AdvanceCT with essential workforce expertise as an efficient and effective partner.

Please let us know if AdvanceCT can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Denious
President & CEO

Implementing high impact and inclusive economic development solutions for Connecticut.