



*Written Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
Department of Social Services
March 26, 2021*

**S.B. 885 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Section 1 of this bill would allow for state agencies to contract directly with other states. The Department of Social Services (DSS) has been advised by the Office of the Attorney General that all state agencies require explicit legislative authority to contract with other states. Currently, the Department lacks this legislative authority. The lack of legislative authority has impaired the Department's ability to pursue opportunities with other states that would provide valuable services to the Department and its clients. As with all DSS contracts, any contract with other states would comply with the state's standard contract language and review process. This bill provides the needed authority for all Connecticut state agencies. As such, the Department supports Senate Bill 885.

**H.B. 6660 - AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF LIENS PLACED ON PERSONAL
PROPERTY FOR STATE RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to study the feasibility of establishing a prohibition on the placement of liens on personal property. Also, the bill requires DSS to report on the additional cost of prohibiting the placement of such liens on any personal property.

First, DSS notes that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) would be the appropriate agency to lead any such study if the bill is enacted into law, as DAS – *not DSS* – is the lead agency on recoveries. However, it is unclear as to the specific intent of the bill as DSS' understanding is that DAS does not place liens on personal property (DAS may make claims against certain windfalls, such as lawsuit settlements or lottery winnings).

Similarly, because DSS understands that there may be a significant fiscal component to any modification to current DAS recovery processes, if there were to be any such study, DSS respectfully suggests that DAS be the lead agency on any such review.

While DSS is always available to discuss this issue with stakeholders, because it is our understanding that neither DSS nor DAS places liens on personal property in Connecticut, and because DAS (not DSS) may make claims against certain windfalls such as lawsuit settlements or lottery winnings, DSS must oppose this legislation as written.