



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 Maggie Hulce and I am the Senior Vice President & GM of Enterprise at Indeed. I would like to testify concerning S.B. 885 An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government.

The primary goal of the Governor's Workforce Council (GWC) and the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) is to ensure that Connecticut develops the most accessible, equitable, and high-quality workforce in the country. In order to achieve this goal, the Governor's Workforce Council released its strategic plan on workforce development in October 2020 which includes 19 different strategic initiatives, each of which are critical to the development of a high-performing overall system. These initiatives require hundreds of stakeholders to be coordinated so that an array of different perspectives is informing the different recommendations and implementations. Since the inception of the Governor's Workforce Council, the Office of Workforce Strategy has been effective in coordinating different stakeholders across the state and organizing them into collective action to execute on the goals and objectives of the individual initiatives in the plan. Ensuring the Office of Workforce Strategy has the organizational flexibility it needs to ensure effective coordination and completion of the different initiatives of the GWC will be paramount.

Given Indeed's active membership on the Governor's Workforce Council, we have seen firsthand the power that the OWS has in not only executing on the strategic initiatives outlined in the strategic plan, but also on engaging with businesses, educators, and community organizations to build, in real-time, a more agile and coordinated workforce. By engaging businesses such as the organizations on the GWC, the OWS is coordinating stakeholders to build a workforce that is driven by the needs of industry. The OWS is also working closely with educational partners across the state to ensure that their curriculum is flexible enough to meet the rapidly changing needs of business. In addition, the OWS has been coordinating across



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different community organizations to ensure the needs of all residents are reflected in the programs and structures that are being developed. It is the ability of the OWS to not only work across all of these different stakeholders, but to align them under a unified state strategy that makes them so valuable.

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 a natural continuation of the current state given how successful and impactful the Office of Workforce Strategy has been at coordinating the state's workforce efforts. My team and I are very excited to see the initiatives of the Governor's Workforce Council come to fruition over the next few years and are extremely confident in the Office of Workforce Strategy to execute on difficult, but exciting, work ahead.

Best regards,

Maggie Hulce
Senior Vice President & GM