



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

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Testimony of Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer,
Office of Policy and Management

SB 885: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Chairs Osten and Walker, Vice Chairs Hartley and Dathan, Ranking Members Miner and France, and honorable members of the Appropriations Committee: My name is Scott Gaul and I am the Chief Data Officer of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of S.B. 885, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government.

As Chief Data Officer, at the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), I support the proposals in Senate Bill 885 to improve the quality of workforce data and the ability to use that data to inform policy and practice, specifically, the recommendations in sections 11 and 50 concerning measurement and evaluation of outcomes for education and workforce programs and improvements in interagency data sharing. At OPM, the Data and Policy Analytics unit directs and manages activities related to the collection, analysis, sharing, coordination and dissemination of data and is responsible for the development and implementation of the [State Data Plan](#), the [Open Data Portal](#), and administration of [P20 WIN](#), the State's integrated data system.

Section 11 requires the Chief Workforce Officer to "coordinate measurement and evaluation of outcomes across education and workforce development programs." This kind of system-wide coordination is needed to ensure a consistent approach to data collection and reporting to facilitate 'apples-to-apples' comparisons for decision-making.

Section 50 includes changes to the purpose and role of the P20 WIN system. P20 WIN is the collaborative system that shares data across participating agencies to ensure that individuals successfully navigate supportive services and educational pathways into the workforce.

While this bill only modifies a few words in the purpose for P20 WIN, the changes mark significant steps forward in terms of the state's ability to measure progress in a range of areas, not only workforce development. The new purpose reflects a broad vision, adopted by the P20 WIN Executive Board, "to inform policy and practice for education, workforce and supportive services efforts." The expanded purpose will allow P20 WIN to accelerate and expand data usage and to take on a wider range of

projects to link data across the participating agencies. The Governor's Workforce Council strategic plan prioritized improving data collection to better understand the performance of the workforce system and outcomes for residents, with the P20 WIN system as the backbone. An expanded P20 WIN will undertake research on models for college and career success, the support mechanisms required for student success in education, the impact of financial aid on educational attainment, and the outcomes and impact of workforce training programs across the state.

It is important to underscore that privacy and confidentiality remain of the utmost importance in the development and review of these proposals. The Office of Policy and Management has produced reports¹ the past two years that cover the state and federal laws and regulations that pertain to the ability to use or share data. These laws are the foundation of the data governance process for data requests, including requests to the P20 WIN system, which is the backbone for analysis of education and workforce outcomes. The evolution of the P20 WIN system is one component of developing a coordinated statewide approach to data governance and a flexible, durable set of legal agreements that ensure data sharing is safe, ethical, and secure.

S.B. 885 has several innovative proposals that will increase Connecticut's ability to link and analyze workforce, education and supportive services data to understand the experience and outcomes for residents as they navigate different state systems.

¹ Available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/CTData/Content/Agency-Guidance>; the most recent report is attached to this testimony.