



**Connecticut League
for Nursing**

Written testimony in support of S.B. 885, in particular Section 11.

March 26, 2021

Appropriations Committee

I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 885 in particular Section 11 on behalf of the Connecticut League for Nursing (CLN) and the Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce (CCNW). My name is Marcia B. Proto, M.Ed, CAS and I am the Executive Director for both the Connecticut League for Nursing and Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce.

I speak in support of Senate Bill 885 in particular Section 11 pertaining to **codify the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) as an office for administrative purposes only in DECD.**

This Office will be in capable hands led by the Chief Workforce Officer (Dr. Kelli Vallieres), who will serve as the principal advisor to the Governor on all things workforce and provide the staff to the Governor's Workforce Council.

The OWS will also be responsible for coordinating workforce programs across state government and ensure that workforce funds are being braided effectively across the state. Kelli and her team currently exist through an MOU and have contributed significant value to the state already, so it is critical that her office be codified into law.

It is imperative for the State of Connecticut to transform its workforce if Connecticut is to be seen as a destination for employment and world-class employers. To begin this transformation, it is critical that Connecticut create such an Office that can provide oversight at this level.

Should our state continue to operate in the current manor with disparate and disconnected systems with departments competing for limited state and federal resources; Connecticut will continue to “just muddle through” and only have the capacity to address current workforce issues yet lose sight of the primary more important goal of preparing Connecticut’s workforce of the future.

The OWS sole focus is to ensure a robust and sustainable Connecticut workforce. Moreover, the OWS will capitalize on untapped resources including: accurate market driven data, cross sector stakeholder feedback and sector-specific innovative employment models. By utilizing these resources, areas of duplication and redundancy could be minimized, millions of dollars in cost saving realized, educational pipelines for those “in-demand roles” across all sectors adequately sized, and the Connecticut job seeker better positioned and equipped to enter a system that is directly aligned with employer needs.

The mission of the CLN is to: Promote excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse workforce to advance the nation's health.

The mission of the CCNW is to: Foster collaboration and facilitate research on nursing & healthcare professionals to insure a robust, sustainable, diverse and exceptional healthcare workforce in Connecticut.

Both the CLN and CCNW strongly support the SB Bill 855 in particular Section 11 to be codified.

Respectfully submitted:

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