

Statement of Peter Salovey, President of Yale University
Submitted to the Appropriations Committee
March 29, 2021
SB 885, an Act Implementing the Governor's Budget
Recommendations for General Government

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 885, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government. I am Peter Salovey, the President of Yale University, and I have the honor of serving on the Governor's Workforce Council. I write in support of Section 11 of SB 885, which would reorganize the Office Workforce Strategy under the leadership of the Chief Workforce Officer of Connecticut.

The Governor charged the Workforce Council with designing a strategy to ensure that Connecticut has the most accessible, equitable, and high-quality workforce in the country. In developing that strategy, the Workforce Council benefited greatly from the analyses, ingenuity, and leadership of the staff of the Office of Workforce Strategy. It conducted in-depth assessments of talent needs in key industries and solicited input from scores of stakeholders. The Office of Workforce Strategy enabled a comprehensive review of a strategy, taking into account transportation needs, access to childcare, and the adverse effect of benefits cliffs in safety net benefits.

The Office of Workforce Strategy will also play an essential role in implementing and fine-tuning the workforce development strategy. Section 11 would provide the Office of Workforce Strategy the organizational flexibility it needs to ensure effective coordination and completion of the different initiatives of the Governor's Workforce Council. I support the reframed responsibilities of the Office of Workforce Strategy and Chief Workforce Officer, and I respectfully urge you to support Section 11 of SB 885.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.