



SB 761

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

**An Act Making the Janitorial Work Pilot Program
for Persons with a Disability or a Disadvantage Permanent**

**Government Administration & Elections Committee
March 11, 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 761, **An Act Making the Janitorial Work Pilot Program for Persons with a Disability or a Disadvantage Permanent**. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has been working with SEIU 32BJ, the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) and other stakeholders to develop the language for this proposal, and the agency would like to express its support for this concept.

The Janitorial Work Pilot Program was originally established in 2006 (P.A. 06-129) as a partnership between the community of individuals with disabilities and representatives of economically disadvantaged workers. P.A. 06-129 provided for the development of "qualified partnerships" between private janitorial contractors and community rehabilitation providers, and established a preference for such qualified partnerships when they bid on state janitorial contracts if the partnerships met specified criteria.

The goals of the Pilot Program were to expand employment for people with disabilities and people with economic disadvantages, provide employment security for workers on State of Connecticut janitorial contracts, and develop new integrated work opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The Pilot Program was originally established for a four-year term, and was later extended for an additional three years. Without legislative action this year, the Program will expire in October 2013.

In DAS's view, the Pilot Program has been a success. As a result, DAS and other stakeholders are seeking to make the program permanent. CCPA, SEIU 32BJ, and DAS have met a number of times to discuss all concerns that have arisen during the course of the Pilot, and to identify the necessary changes to the statutes to address those concerns. We have worked cooperatively to develop mutually-agreeable language to accomplish our goals (attached), and respectfully ask for the Committee's support.

As always, DAS is happy to discuss this bill with the Committee at any time.