CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Partner of the American Job Center Network

Written Testimony of
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Human Services Committee
February 5, 2015

Good Day Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Markley and Representative Wood and members of the Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding **Proposed HB 5823: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A STATE-WIDE COORDINATED TWO-GENERATIONAL MODEL.**

This bill proposes the creation of two-generational pilot programs that promote long term, economic success for low-income families. Services offered would include a specific focus on employability, sustainable employment, professional development and programmatic linkages for children and parents.

The Department of Labor (DOL) supports the implementation of two-generational program models. Together with our partner agency, CT Department of Social Services (DSS) , the Department currently administers the Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) program for individuals receiving Temporary Family Assistance (TFA). Employment services are offered to the TFA adults; such as literacy assessment, job search assistance, job placement, vocational education, adult basic education and subsidized employment. However, both DOL and DSS are limited in terms of offering additional programs designed for the children within the TFA household. Our TFA adults rely on access to child care assistance from the Office of Early Childhood's Care 4 Kids program.

Unfortunately, at this time the Department does not have unallocated funds to support this pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input concerning this proposed bill.