

## H.B. NO. 5823 TESTIMONY – CAPITAL WORKFORCE PARTNERS

HELLO. MY NAME IS THOMAS PHILLIPS, CEO OF CAPITAL WORKFORCE PARTNERS, NORTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD. I AM SPEAKING ON PROPOSED H.B. NO. 5823 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A STATE-WIDE COORDINATED TWO- GENERATIONAL MODEL, WHICH CALLS FOR THE CREATION OF PILOTED TWO-GENERATIONAL MODEL PROGRAMS PROMOTING THE LONG TERM ECONOMIC SUCCESS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

THIS LEGISLATION FOCUSES ON THE NEED TO SUPPORT MIDDLE SKILLS AND CAREER PATHWAY SYSTEMS FROM A FAMILY-BASED MODEL, MOST NOTABLY THROUGH:

- PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO ACQUIRE ADVANCED TECHNICAL SKILLS TO INCREASE EMPLOYABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT,
- SUPPORTING INTENSIFIED AND TARGETED SECTOR AND WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION, AND
- SUPPORTING PROVEN MODELS OF SUCCESS FOR WORKFORCE READINESS

THE LEGISLATION SUPPORTS A TWO-GENERATIONAL FAMILY ECONOMIC SUCCESS CENTER MODEL THAT MIGHT INCLUDE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, FAMILY SERVICES, ADULT EDUCATION, WORKFORCE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER SERVICES -- ALL IN ONE LOCATION.

THE BILL SUPPORTS THE LARGER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S TWO GENERATION WORKGROUP, WHICH HAS SET SYSTEMS, POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF 2GEN FAMILIES GAINING ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY – AN RBA GOAL THAT SHOULD BE ON EVERYONE'S STRATEGIC MAP.

THE BILL IS ALSO ALIGNED WITH THE GOALS OF THE STATE'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR OVER 15,600 JFES CUSTOMERS, AND APPROXIMATELY 200,000 JOB SEEKERS WHO VISIT CONNECTICUT'S AMERICAN JOB CENTERS ANNUALLY.

AND, THE 2GEN BILL ALSO ALIGNS WITH THE CETC, CT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION STATE-WIDE PLAN.

PD LIKE TO FOCUS ON SOME OF THE AREAS OF THE BILL THAT MAY HAVE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. THIS BILL WOULD

- CONTEMPORIZE TANF FOR TODAY'S NEEDS. CURRENT WELFARE LAW LIMITS ACCESS TO LEARNING AND REASONABLE EMPLOYMENT. TIME LIMITS ON TRAINING