



**House Bill 5049**

**An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government**

**Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey**

**Government Administration and Elections Committee**

**Monday February 22, 2016**

The Department of Administrative Services ("DAS") offers the following comments on House Bill 5049, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government.

While DAS is broadly in support of the bill as a whole, we would like to comment specifically on two sections with particular impact on our agency.

Section 13 involves a delay to the implementation of the extension of the set-aside goals to municipal public works projects. The DAS Supplier Diversity Unit is responsible for the administration of the set-aside goals for state agencies and remains fully committed to the state's set aside goals. While the DAS Supplier Diversity Unit would not be responsible for the administration of the set-aside goals for municipal agencies, our experience with the complexity of the program at the state level gives us a unique perspective. The municipal set-aside program will involve a sophisticated interaction between the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, the municipalities, and the municipal contractors. Delaying this program until July 1, 2019 will give all the parties involved the time they need to fully prepare for this interaction.

Section 22 would allow state agencies to utilize the standard form provided by the federal Department of Justice to file their affirmative action plan to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. It would also allow those agencies whose affirmative action plans have already been approved by the federal Department of Justice to use that approval to satisfy their state affirmative action requirement. This change will bring greater efficiency to the affirmative action plan approval process and remove unnecessary duplication, while continuing to protect the goals of our affirmative action program and ensuring fair hiring practices are strictly observed in the state of Connecticut.

We thank the Committee for permitting DAS to comment on this bill.