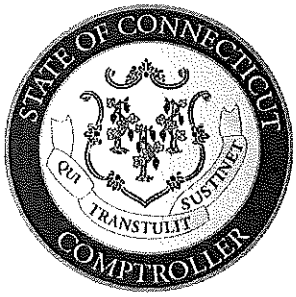
KEVIN LEMBO
STATE COMPTROLLER

MARTHA CARLSON
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
February 24, 2016

Concerning
R.B. No. 126 AAC an Internship Program for Adults with Autism

Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on Raised Bill 126, An Act Concerning an Internship Program for Adults with Autism.

Opportunity for all is very important. As a father of two sons who are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), I recognize how especially important such an opportunity is for those on the autism spectrum. It was not long ago that my two oldest sons reached an age where they needed to transition into the community, find employment and live independently.

Both of my sons ultimately made their transition to adulthood successfully -- as both of them are working and living independently. In this process, I have seen the beneficial impact of internships and their potential to turn into competitive employment.

An internship program would offer the opportunity for adults with ASD to realize their piece of the American Dream and become taxpaying members of our community. The program will also continue to raise awareness that those with ASD can live successful, independent lives if they have the right support.

Thank you for your time.