TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
3/20/18

Re: S.B. 441: AN ACT CONCERNING AN INVENTORY OF THE STATE’S CYBERSECURITY JOB TRAINING PIPELINE

S.B. 443: AN ACT CONCERNING BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

S.B. 445 AN ACT CONCERNING AN ANALYSIS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON FISCAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

S.B. 446 AN ACT CONCERNING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE BIOSCIENCE SECTOR IN CONNECTICUT

H.B. 5440 AN ACT CONCERNING BUSINESS REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING THROUGH THE STATE’S ELECTRONIC BUSINESS PORTAL

Senator Hartley, Senator Frantz, Representative Simmons, Representative Yaccarino and members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding our concerns with several bills on today’s agenda.

As you are aware, our mission at the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state’s economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting cultural and tourism assets.

Though some of them are certainly “placeholder” bills, most of the pieces of legislation before you today are bills that would require DECD to study one issue or another. For instance, SB 441 requires DECD to conduct an inventory of the educational resources available in the state to prepare students for careers in the cybersecurity field, while SB 445 obliges the agency to analyze the recommendations made by the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth. Similarly, SB 446 tasks DECD with working with Connecticut Innovations to develop a short and long-term strategic plan for the bioscience sector in Connecticut, whereas HB 5440 charges the agency and the Secretary of State with studying the feasibility of expanding the state’s electronic business portal to serve as a centralized business registration and licensing filing system. Finally, under SB 443, DECD is required to study all facets of blockchain technology.
While we understand that the content of many of these bills may change as they make their way through the legislative process, we feel the need to express our concerns with the bills as currently drafted. With the agency’s staffing levels down approximately 20%, we truly do not have the resources to dedicate to any studies. Additionally, in some cases, such as with blockchain technology, we lack the in-house expertise to conduct an informed analysis.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of our thoughts on these bills.