

SENATOR CATHY OSTEN
Nineteenth District

Legislative Office Building
Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Tel. 860-240-0579
Toll-free 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorOsten.cga.ct.gov



State of Connecticut
SENATE

Chair
Appropriations Committee
Vice Chair
Housing Committee
Labor & Public Employees Committee
Member
Transportation Committee
Veterans' Affairs Committee

Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
April 2, 2018
LOB 2E 10:30AM

In **SUPPORT** of: Senate Bill 535
An Act Establishing the Apprenticeship Connecticut Initiative

Chairman Fonfara, Chairman Rojas, Chairman Frantz, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 535, *An Act Establishing the Apprenticeship Connecticut Initiative*. My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the Towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

I would like to begin my testimony by thanking Senator Fonfara and the leadership of the committee for introducing this important jobs legislation that seeks to continue Connecticut's investments in defense manufacturing jobs.

As you may remember, in January of this year, I unveiled my Submarine Jobs and Opportunities Building Success Act proposal (Submarine JOBS Act), which sought to invest \$50 million over 10 years in our workforce development programs, community colleges, and vocational technical high schools that correspond with the demands of defense contracts for submarine design, construction, repair and maintenance. In addition, my proposal dedicated \$100 million in funds over five years for building infrastructure to meet the demand of increased submarine contracts awarded to Electric Boat.

As many of you know, southeastern Connecticut was the hardest hit region of our State as a result of the Great Recession. The investments outlined in this legislation will have a tremendous impact in the training and development of the skilled workforce needed to meet the growing demands of Electric Boat and their 446 suppliers. Similar to what we have done previously with UTC Pratt and Whitney and Sikorsky, it is imperative to Connecticut's economy that we support Electric Boat's future growth and assist their local supply chain continue to thrive in our State.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 535. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.