CHAIRPERSON: Representative Toni Walker

SENATORS:

REPRESENTATIVES: Abercrombie, Bolinsky, Candelaria, Dathan, DiMassa, Gilchrest, Horn, Johnson, Simanski

REP. WALKER (93RD): We are starting the public hearing portion of the Legislative Management portion. That was funny, I'm cracking myself up. So, we have no agencies testifying but we do have two people that are testifying for Legislation -- Legislative Management Committee. So, I have Baki Cetegen. Good afternoon. Turn the button.

MR. CETEGEN: Good afternoon.

REP. WALKER (93RD): Good afternoon. Senator Osten, Representative Walker, members of the Committee, my name is Baki Cetegen, President of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering. And I am also a professor of mechanical engineering at UConn [inaudible 1:01]. As you know, Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering is a non-profit organization created by the Special Act of the General Assembly in 1976 to provide the state with expert guidance on science and technology issues.

The Academy's request is for funding in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to conduct projects and studies for the General Assembly on science and technology topics of interest and concern that our selected in consultation with the leadership of the General Assembly Committees.
In closing, the Academy is most appreciative of having the opportunity to work with the General Assembly to provide insights on issues of high importance to our fate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

REP. WALKER (93RD): Thank you and I just want to --

MR. CENTEGEN: Oh, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

REP. WALKER (93RD): I just want to get just a quick. So, what you gave us are some of the contracts that you have?

MR. CENTEGEN: Currently, we don't have any studies underway.

REP. WALKER (93RD): Okay, these are proposed contracts that you have.

MR. CENTEGEN: Correct. And we work with the State agencies who ask certain studies to be conducted and Connecticut Academy acts as the agency who puts the experts together within its membership as well as from outside the state to conduct an unbiased and objective study for the state legislature to make decisions on important -- of the issues that they come up with.

REP. WALKER (93RD): Okay, thank you for your testimony and we'll read it over and if we have any questions, we'll come back to you.

MR. CENTEGEN: Thank you very much.

REP. WALKER (93RD): Thank you, have a good evening.

MR. CENTEGEN: You too, bye-bye.

MS. FRASER: Hi, everyone. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. Good evening and my name is Elizabeth Fraser, the Policy Director at the Connecticut Association for Human Services. A cause works to reduce poverty and promote equity and economic mobility through both policy and program work. And I won't take a lot of time, I'm just here to support the Commission on Opportunity and Equity and the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors.

I think you all know what the Commissions do for your work and how they help and support your work. But I just wanted to give a few indications of how they help others in the field. And they always, I have three words written here in my testimony, authentication, education and conversation.

They always start from a place of authenticity, providing voice from, from the populations that they serve and making sure that the context provides true perspective rather than individual perceptions of how our policies, programs and funding works for the people. It allows the public to be part of the solution for agencies to plan and develop strategies with clarity and for the legislature to make informed decision. And for that, we're really grateful that it always comes from the ground, their work.

Second, of course, the educational efforts that they make. Keeping abreast of current national research, trends and opportunities is something that we all learn from in our field. With the information and access to their national context, they have become exceptional at facilitating educational forums and sponsored events and linking that authenticity from the ground to the research and policy innovators. And really this dynamic provides a really holistic
experience for all participating or attending. And really helps us to develop best practice models and policies that really are on the ground for people.

But by far for me, the most valuable part of the Commission is a non-partisan conversation that is facilitated through the legislative representation at some of the forums and educational activities that they provide. It is evident from attending their facilitated events that they work hard to ensure that the legislators invited to participate on panels represent both sides of the aisle with varying and unique viewpoints. They provide a public forum outside of the context of the legislative process where in-depth, rounded conversations on topical issues are given room. All are heard and respected which serves to elevate the discussion and give greater depth to the topics at hand. And what results for us is a dialogue that might not otherwise take place. A deepening understanding of each other and sometimes the development of unlikely partnerships.

These inclusive conversations have a place in all of our work, non-profit, state agencies and the public. And in world that seems increasingly polarized, the Commissions work to bridge divides by example both for the populations they represent and for those of us working to find solutions. So, thank you very much for your time.

REP. WALKER (93RD): Thank you, Liz, and thank you for all you do. You do a fantastic job and thank you for coming up and testifying.

MS. FRASER: Well, thank you for all of you because you all do a fantastic job too and thank you very much.
REP. WALKER (93RD): Okay, bye-bye. So, this concludes the Legislative Management portion of the hearing. We will, we will, what will I do. I will close this. So, I will close this meeting and we will reconvene to open the public hearing for the Health Committee, Subcommittee at 5:30. So, please everybody make sure that you look at the posting to see if you're testifying, what room because we have two rooms that we are, we are working in. One is 2C and the other is 2D. If you have any questions, please talk to one of the clerks, they will be able to help direct you to what room you are going to be working in. Thank you.