

## TESTIMONY TO GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

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### **Governor's Bill No. 6444**

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Distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 6444: An Act Concerning the Modernization of State Services.

As you know, Connecticut Innovations (CI) is the state's venture capital arm, and the leading source of financing and ongoing support for Connecticut's innovative and growing companies. By offering flexible financing and introductions to valuable partners, we stimulate and promote technological innovation and encourage the development of new products and inventions.

Among its many important provisions, HB 6444 seeks to facilitate connections between CT based technology companies and CT's state government agencies. As you may know, many federal spending programs such as the Small Business Innovation Research program (<https://www.sbir.gov/about>) have small business set asides and favorable treatment for small American technology firms. CT has the opportunity to improve our small companies' prospects and become a global technology hub. This bill will allow CI, DAS and OPM to work collaboratively to showcase interesting technologies that solve a wide variety of problems for state government agencies ranging from healthcare, insurance, payments to information technology. This bill would speed the process from the proof of concept work, demonstrating the value to the government agency, to a large scale purchase order for the product ("POC to PO").

CI will work closely with DAS and OPM to establish a "Innovation Lab" whereby CT's technology companies demonstrate their products to various state agencies, fund proof of concept demonstrations, and hopefully become trusted partners and vendors to the agency of record. The end result would be more efficient government, faster growing tech companies, and more jobs in CT,

Thank you in advance for your consideration.