



**Testimony of Acting Commissioner Michelle Gilman
Commissioner of Administrative Services**

**Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2022**

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Lesser, Representative Baker, and distinguished members of the Committee. My name is Michelle Gilman and I am the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services ("DAS"). I would like to start by giving you a brief overview of DAS and some of the major elements of the proposed budget adjustments. I welcome any questions you may have.

DAS is organized into six functional areas that report to the Commissioner: Human Resources, Real Estate and Construction, Bureau of Information Technology Solutions ("BITS"), Procurement Services, Business Office, and Legal & Legislative. Within these functional areas, DAS houses a number of distinct programs that comprise the business functions of state government, including information technology, human resources, procurement, facilities and real estate, construction services, fleet, workers compensation and more. Our divisions are united in a common mission:

- **Support Connecticut's Growth** - To serve our citizens, businesses, state agencies and other branches of government by providing the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost.
- **Drive Continuous Innovation** - To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state government using best practices from the public and private sectors.
- **Provide Rewarding Careers** - To attract and retain a workforce of talented, dedicated public servants committed to leading our great state forward.

When the biennial budget was enacted in 2021, DAS's authorized "all funds" appropriation for 2023 was \$154,216,607. The Governor's proposed budget adjustment increases the 2023 amount by approximately \$75 million to \$229,501,173.

The biennial budget authorized DAS for 722 General Fund positions in 2023. The Governor's proposed budget adjustment increases DAS's position count by 398 for a total of 1,120 General Fund positions in 2023.

The adjusted appropriations and position count reflect some of the major initiatives DAS has been engaged in, including the consolidation of information technology functions within DAS. Governor Lamont's technology vision is bold, and requires a fundamental

change to the way the Executive Branch delivers technology services to agencies and the public. Part of that vision involves transferring 388 information technology personnel from their current agencies into the Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (“BITS”) at DAS. By bringing together executive branch technology personnel and related expenditures into DAS, we improve enterprise-wide IT services by sharing reusable solutions and common processes, accelerating digital government, applying shared best practices, and driving greater automation, among other things.

Also included in the budget is funding to provide matching grants to support investments in air quality improvement projects at schools. In response to the heightened awareness of the importance of providing a safe and healthy environment for learning brought about by the pandemic and by the 2021 School Facility Survey, a \$90 million school air quality grant program is being established utilizing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery (“CSFRF”) funds. It is anticipated that this grant program will be run through the Office of School Construction Grants and Review and will award grants to schools to provide funding to support heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and other indoor air quality improvements.

Finally, this budget contains approximately \$59 million from Federal Coronavirus Capital Project Funds for the Connecticut Education Network. The Connecticut Education Network creates economies of scale for public sector entities that do not exist in private industry. This investment expands broadband to municipalities and libraries, public K-12 and charter schools, and provides infrastructure upgrades that will bolster the capacity and resiliency of the network, ensuring equitable access to high-quality Internet for all connected schools, colleges, universities, libraries, municipal offices, and state government agencies.

Separate from the DAS budget, I wanted to bring to your attention that in the biennial budget, a total of \$100 million was appropriated to Worker’s Compensation Claims program authorized “all funds” for FY2023. The Governor’s proposed budget adjustment increases the FY2023 amount by approximately \$1.9 million due to the anticipated expenses for the COVID-19 claims to \$102,261,151.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.