



**Senate Bill 486**

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONCERNING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS OF EMPLOYEES WITH ACCESS TO TAX RECORDS**

**Joint Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Labor, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection**

**Government Administration and Elections Committee**

**March 18, 2026**

Senator Flexer, Representative Blumenthal, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **Senate Bill 486: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Administrative Services Concerning Criminal Background Checks of Employees with Access to Tax Records**.

For background, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) manages the National Criminal Background Records (NCBR) system. Anyone processing federal tax information (FTI) must conduct an NCBR search. Because check results are highly sensitive, the FBI grants access to the NCBR system only to entities authorized by statute.

Public Act 23-204 established the frequency of criminal background checks for state employees and applicants who handle federal tax information (FTI). In accordance with federal requirements, background checks for these employees must now be conducted every five years, rather than every ten.

The FBI has notified Connecticut that additional statutory changes are necessary to meet federal requirements. To allow for these changes, the FBI has granted Connecticut an extension until the end of 2026. This proposal outlines the statutory changes needed for the State of Connecticut to achieve compliance with federal regulations.

Specifically, the proposed language will allow DAS Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (BITS) employees – who handle NCBR and FTI for DSS and DOL – the required statutory authority

to continue this work. Without this change, the FBI will suspend DSS and DOL's access to NCBR. As a result, both agencies would face costly restructuring and service disruptions. This proposal codifies current practice and has been reviewed by the State Police, DSS, and DOL to ensure continuation of current practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we urge the passage of **Senate Bill 486**.