



SENATE BILL 471

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF APPRENTICES ON
PREVAILING WAGE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS**

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 13, 2026

Senator Flexer, Representative Blumenthal, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am Michelle Gilman, Commissioner for the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **Senate Bill 471: An Act Concerning the Use of Apprentices on Prevailing Wage Public Works Projects**.

Senate Bill 471 requires contractors and subcontractors on public works projects over ten million dollars to use registered apprentices for a minimum percentage of total on-site labor hours. These requirements phase in over three years—5%, 10%, and 15%—and apply to each contractor individually.

DAS supports the bill's intent to strengthen Connecticut's skilled workforce pipeline by encouraging greater use of apprentices on major public works projects.

Connecticut's trade workers are essential to the delivery, safety, and reliability of every public works project undertaken across the state. They are the backbone of our construction industry, providing the highly skilled labor necessary to build and maintain state facilities, higher education buildings, and other critical infrastructure.

Apprenticeship programs are vital to sustaining this workforce. They provide structured, hands-on training, create pathways into sustaining careers, and help ensure that Connecticut maintains a robust pipeline of trained workers able to meet current and future construction demands.

We welcome the opportunity to continue working collaboratively with all stakeholders as this proposal advances.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with the Committee.

450 Columbus Boulevard | Hartford, CT 06103

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