



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
March 18, 2022**

Senators Flexer and Sampson, Representatives Fox and Mastrofrancesco and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **H.B. No. 5454 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

In section 6 of the bill, it adds the Commissioner of Administrative Services to DDS's statute concerning fingerprint-based state and national criminal history records checks for applicants who have been made conditional offers of employment by DDS. This change will allow DDS's human resources business partners at the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to have access to the fingerprint-based criminal history record check information for the purposes of hiring.

State and national criminal history records checks are vital to protect the health and safety of the individuals DDS serves. Persons with intellectual disability are a vulnerable group who may have been subjected to abuse, neglect and financial exploitation over the years. While criminal history records checks cannot eliminate all bad actors from seeking employment with DDS, the checks can prevent those applicants who have a criminal record of offenses that would impact their working with vulnerable persons. These checks also are important because of the fluidity of the human services workforce and how applicants may have moved from job to job but also from state to state.

DDS supports this bill because it will streamline the hiring process while continuing to protect individuals with intellectual disability served by DDS.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding **H.B. No. 5454 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.** Please contact Kevin Bronson, DDS Director of Communications, Legislation and Regulations at 860-550-3497 with any questions.