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**Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
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**Concerning
Raised Bill 445: An Act Concerning a Bioscience and Health Data Network Collaborative Task Force**

Senator Hartley, Representative Perone, Senator Frantz, Representative Camillo and members of the Commerce Committee:

I am writing today in strong support of Raised Bill 445: An Act Concerning a Bioscience and Health Data Network Collaborative Task Force.

This legislation presents an opportunity to capitalize on Connecticut's strengths. Our state is home to renowned research universities and leaders in the fields of health care and bioscience. Establishing a Health Innovation Corridor will allow these institutions to work collaboratively and will encourage the creation of new businesses eager to tap into the wealth of knowledge, data and opportunities being created nearby.

Throughout the country we have seen how the advancement and expansion of broadband technology access increases economic development. Over the past few years, I have traveled the state talking to businesses, residents and municipal leaders, all of whom see the benefits of investing in advanced, ultra-high speed networks in our state. The legislation does not include municipal representation on the task force. However, I would recommend continued communication with local leaders to ensure that potential projects are meeting the needs of our municipalities and the residents and businesses within their borders. Collaboration and communication will maximize the impact and efficiency of the Innovation Corridor.

It is in our collective best interest to explore new ways to grow Connecticut's economy. The proposed Health Innovation Corridor will encourage entrepreneurship, private investment in our state and the retention of our brightest young minds.

Cleveland, Ohio embarked on a similar venture, creating a "Health-Tech Corridor" in 2008. The project has resulted in over 1,800 new jobs and over \$4 billion of investment. North Carolina has connected the research universities in their "Research Triangle" in an effort to spur economic development and collaboration in the region.

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With a unified effort, sound planning and creative execution, Connecticut is well positioned to see similar success. I applaud the Committee, the Connecticut Technology Council and those leaders throughout the state who are working on this legislation.