STATEMENT FROM CT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR COMMISSIONER KURT WESTBY ON LABOR DAY

September 4, 2020

(Wethersfield, CT) – Connecticut Department of Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby made the following statement in recognition of Labor Day:

“This year, Labor Day takes on a special meaning as we pause for a moment to thank Connecticut’s extraordinary workforce. It took a global public health crisis, but the concepts of ‘essential workers’ and ‘first responders’ have permanently expanded to reflect the diligence and commitment of employees who have often been overlooked in the past. The low-wage workforce that underpins our economy—grocery store employees, maintenance and cleaning staff, and many others have emerged as among the most critical in getting us through COVID-19. Health workers and researchers have been relentless in the face of severe workloads, and teachers and education professionals are working nonstop to provide a safe, stable learning environment for young people. This has been a very difficult time for the workforce—and for those who have been pushed out of the workforce due to COVID-19. With nearly a million unemployment applications coming in since mid-March, Connecticut’s Department of Labor has been challenged as well. We join all of Connecticut in celebrating our labor force, wishing health and safety this holiday weekend, and continuing the work towards a stronger economy that benefits all.”

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