



OFFICE OF URBAN AFFAIRS
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

February 27, 2007

My name is Patricia Wallace, representing the Office of Urban Affairs of the Archdiocese of Hartford. I am here today to speak in favor of the State Earned Income Tax Credit, S.B. 146.

In their Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy, published in November, 1986, the Catholic Bishops of the United States stated that:

Every perspective on economic life that is human, moral and Christian must be shaped by three questions: What does the economy do for people? What does it do to people? And how do people participate in it.
(13)

The Bishops specifically called for a critical look at the tax system:

The tax system should be continually evaluated in terms of its impact on the poor. (202d)

The Bishops view is that:

The fulfillment of the basic needs of the poor is of the highest priority.
(90a)

The Bishops stress the importance of work and the responsibility of people who can work to do so. They also stress the obligation of employers and of society to ensure that people who do work are able to provide the minimum that is essential for life with dignity for themselves and their families.

Connecticut Voices for Children notes that the federal EITC lists more children out of poverty than any other federal program.¹ Families in every town in our State make use of it. However, the federal poverty level is not a fair measure of what it costs to live decently and raise children in our State.² Joining other States in our region by helping hard-working, low-wage families is in our interest as a State.

For these, and many other reasons that you will hear today, please support this important piece of legislation.

¹ "The Earned Income Tax Credit—What It Does for CT, And How It Could Do Much More," CT Voices for Children, January, 2007.

² Ibid.