

Human Services Committee  
February 27, 2007

Testimony of Jes Abrams  
Greater Manchester Young Democrats  
HB 6649 and SB 146

Chairman Harris, Chairman Villano and members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for letting me appear before you today. My name is Jes Abrams and I am a resident of East Hartford and a member of the Greater Manchester Young Democrats. I am here to speak in support of HB 6649 and SB 146, acts concerning a State Earned Income Tax (EITC).

I would like to speak to the positive impact that a State EITC would have on young people in the state of Connecticut. A state EITC would help thousands of young people similar to me.

We are hearing a lot lately about a "brain drain", that is young people like myself who are leaving the state after graduating from one of the many colleges and universities here in Connecticut. I believe that a state EITC would help those like me to be able to afford to stay in the state. It is a constant struggle to afford to live here, as I see more and more of my friends leaving the state. Young people in Connecticut are overburdened with low incomes, a lack of available affordable housing, and oppressive student loans.

A state EITC would provide those who qualify for it a little more money in their pocket that could go towards rent, insurance, groceries and other basic human necessities. Other things that myself, young adults and the working poor can do with this extra money include savings for future expenses such as a down payment on a house or paying off burdensome higher education loans. This money would not only help me but also help the local economy, and thousands of young adults and the working families in the state.

Finally, I would like to stress that this legislation is not welfare. It is a tax credit that only rewards hard working people and families of Connecticut. It does not foster dependence on any social program, and in fact, it would encourage working families and young adults to continue to contribute to the economy of the state by working hard at their jobs – rather than relying on welfare. While Connecticut may be the wealthiest state in the union, we have some of the worst poverty in the Country as well. This income gap between the haves and the have-nots is a grave injustice that plagues Connecticut – and the EITC can help eradicate this injustice by uplifting our hardest working, poorest citizens.

I thank you for your time and urge you to support an Earned Income Tax Credit for the state of Connecticut. Please give young people in Connecticut another reason to stay and live here, and the working poor a fighting chance to survive in our great state.