

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF TRACEY HALSTEAD
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF FAMILY SERVICE AGENCIES
ON S. B. 146 AN ACT CREATING AN EARNED INCOME CREDIT AGAINST
THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX
FEBRUARY 27, 2007

Thank you Senator Harris, Representative Villano and members of the Committee for the opportunity to submit comments on S.B. 146. I am Tracey Halstead, the Director of Programs for the Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies. Since 1997, the Council has served thousands of TANF recipients and Safety Net clients through the statewide Empowering People for Success program. Our program provides homebased assessment, outreach, case management, advocacy, referral and clinical services through contracts with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Labor (DOL). TANF recipients facing significant barriers to employment, those at risk of losing cash assistance or those who have been sanctioned off cash assistance are eligible for our services. The proposed bill will help to significantly improve the lives of those we serve, those who have recently left state assistance, and the working poor in our state.

The Council supports the creation and implementation of a Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). A state EITC will provide low wage workers with the means to establish personal savings, reduce debt, pay for essential health care and build the assets necessary to sustaining economic self sufficiency. Research has demonstrated that the federal EITC is a cost effective measure that improves the lives of families and helps the economy in the process.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this testimony.

Tracey Halstead
Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies
1310 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 219
Wethersfield, CT 06109
PH: 860-571-0093 x 12
FAX: 860-571-0118
thalstead@ctfsa.org