

**Testimony Before the Human Services Committee
Submitted by Ariel Martinez, Executive Director, New Life Corporation
Re: Support of a State Earned Income Tax Credit, S.B. 146 & H.B. 6649
February 27, 2007**

I write in support of a State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). I am the Executive Director of New Life Corporation, a nonprofit in New Haven, CT, who for the past four years has run a number of Volunteer Individual Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and has assisted over 4,000 low-to-moderate-income individuals and families in accessing the federal EITC credits. With barely half of the tax season completed we have already assisted 1,000 families. We have seen first-hand how this program directly benefits hard-working families, and how our cities and municipalities benefit from the extra earned capital which is spent right where they live. That said, I respectfully urge our legislators to make this the year that Connecticut joins the ranks of states which have passed this legislation and have brought a new stream of financial and moral wealth to our most needy of residents. Thank you for your considerate attention to this matter.