

Testimony for the Record
Human Services Committee
February 21, 2008
Legislative Office Building

Submitted by:
Eddie A. Perez, Mayor
City of Hartford
In support of SB 163

Good Morning Senator Harris, Representative Villano, Senator Coleman, Representative Abercrombie & Members of the Committee. I submit this testimony in favor of S. B. No. 163 AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Over the last several years I have been working with community groups to help educate Hartford residents about the EITC and encourage them to file for it. I have seen, first hand, how amazing this program is and how it lifts people out of poverty.

That is why I am submitting this testimony today. S.B. 146 would follow the lead of the nineteen states and the District of Columbia that have created a state EITC. An earned income tax credit, coupled with the Federal EITC, would have a dramatic effect for low-income families in this State.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is one of the most effective government programs ever developed to help hard working low-income families fulfill their dreams. Last year in this City the average refund to Hartford residents was around \$1,400. That is a significant amount of money for lower income families. That is money that can be used for education, saved toward purchasing a home or used to afford health care.

A modest state EITC would significantly improve the lives of families in Hartford and around the state. I strongly support S.B. 146.