

**Testimony before the Human Services Committee in Support of
S.B. 163, AAC An Earned Income Credit**

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I write in support of a State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). I am the Executive Director of New Life Corporation, a faith-based nonprofit in New Haven, CT who for the past five years has run a number of Volunteer Individual Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and has assisted over 5,000 low- and moderate-income individuals and families in accessing the federal EITC credits. With barely half of the tax season completed, we have already assisted over 1,100 families.

We are seeing 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 in the towns and state in which they live. I'm sure this committee will agree that if there ever was a time when low and moderate-income workers needed assistance in making their hard-earned money stretch in order to feed, house and take care of their families, this is it. Homes are being foreclosed upon, jobs are being lost and the dollar is being asked to buy less at a higher cost.

Your passionate championing of the EITC will go a long way into assisting these families. 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.

I thank you all for your considerate and attention to this matter.