

Testimony Before the Human Services Committee

My name is Tom Kemble. I am a co-chair of the Taxes and Education Task Force of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice. I wish to speak in favor of Senate Bill 163, An Act Concerning an Earned Income Tax Credit.

The Connecticut economy generates plenty of money for the state to fund an earned income tax credit amounting to twenty percent of the federal credit. Households who have received the most benefit from the Connecticut economy can easily afford a modest increase in the progressivity of the state income tax which would be the most efficient and direct way for them to help the less fortunate households who do the necessary janitorial, child care, nursing home, and other low-wage work. Without these workers, our economy would come to a stop. The earned income tax credit would be the most efficient way to these struggling low income families.

The social benefits would be huge - less crime, healthier children, fewer broken homes. A modest EITC would not completely eliminate poverty in our state, but it would give thousands of households a hand up to allow them to raise their children in a wholesome, loving environment. Those EITC checks would be spent on long-neglected necessities. Thank you for your attention.