



David Davison
Chair
American Savings Foundation

Sheila Perrin
Vice Chair
Perrin Family Foundation

Stewart Hudson
Secretary
Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation

Richard Gray
Treasurer
University of Connecticut

Pat Baker
Connecticut Health Foundation

Lucy Ball
Lone Pine Foundation

Glenn A. Cassis
African-American Affairs
Commission

Barbara Fernandez
State Office of Insurance and
Financial Services

Robert Forrester
Newman's Own Foundation

Doreen Fundiller-Zweig
Jewish Community Foundation
of Greater Hartford

William Graustein
William Caspar Graustein
Memorial Fund

J.C. David Hadden
Robinson & Cole

Christopher Hall
Hartford Foundation
for Public Giving

Kim A. Healey
NewAlliance Foundation

Debra Hertz
William H. Pitt Foundation

G. Robert Hohler
The Melville Charitable Trust

Patricia McGowan
Kostin, Ruffkess, & Co.

Yvette Melendez
Connecticut State
University System

Kate Miller
The Hartford Courant
Foundation

Sue Murphy
Liberty Bank Foundation

Nancy Roberts
Connecticut Council
for Philanthropy

Susan M. Ross
Fairfield County
Community Foundation

Sheilah Rostow
Bank of America

Anita Ford Saunders
Anita Ford Saunders
Communication

Written Testimony of

Nancy P. Roberts, president, Connecticut Council for Philanthropy

February 13, 2009

In support of:

Senate Bill 780, An Act Concerning the Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act

Good morning, Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro and members of the General Law Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am Nancy Roberts, president of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy which represents more than 100 grantmaking organizations in Connecticut whose granting to nonprofit organizations is approximately \$245 million. Our mission is to support effective philanthropy in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Council for Philanthropy **supports** SB 780 An Act Concerning the Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act. Our members support raising the audit threshold from "in excess of \$200,000 annually" to "in excess of \$500,000 annually" for a certified public accountant audit.

The Council encourages effective practice in grantmaking including transparency, accountability and appropriate due diligence in reviewing nonprofit organizations' financials, however, the escalating cost of audits for small nonprofit organizations is not a good use of charitable money for the benefit they provide.

Raising the audit threshold would enable small nonprofit charitable organizations to use their dollars for charitable works rather than for a required expense of \$6,000 - \$7,000 or more per audit. In these increasingly difficult economic times this money could mean more services in the community.

Foundations and corporate grantmakers could still request an audit or a review of financials before they make a grant to a nonprofit. Our funders report that smaller nonprofit organizations find it increasingly difficult to find a firm that will perform an audit for them.

We urge you to pass SB 780, to raise the audit threshold to "in excess of \$500,000 annually," thereby conserving charitable resources.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present the Council views in support of SB 780. Please feel free to contact me at (860) 525-5585 or nroberts@ctphilanthropy.org with any questions, or to be put in contact with a funder or grantmaker in your community that can provide additional information.