



YMCA

We build strong kids,  
strong families, strong communities.

Testimony of Frank Sumpter, President & CEO, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Before the Legislature's Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
Thursday, February 25, 2010  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut

YMCAs across Connecticut employ thousands of individuals in a multitude of capacities for varying hours and seasons of work. The Northern Middlesex County YMCA, based in Middletown employed 502 individuals during the course of 2009. We presently have 66 full time and 260 part time employees on our payroll. Our part time workers are lifeguards, exercise class instructors, after school recreation workers and the like. Most work less than 20 hours per week, many only for 3 or 4 hours.

We oppose bill SB63 because of the additional financial and administrative burdens this act would place on our YMCA. Based on our current employment levels we calculate the annual cost to be in excess of \$45,000.

While this cost may appear to be manageable, in recent years our YMCA has struggled with increasing costs with energy and health benefits growing at double digit levels. Our current year operating budget projects a loss of \$54,000 – with no provisions for wage increases. Additionally the current economic conditions has increased the demand for scholarship and sliding fee program awards while at the same time the sources of these charitable dollars, annual campaigns, United Ways and Endowment proceeds are dwindling. Add to this the decrease by 50%, or \$50,000 from the State Department of Education for our work in low income schools and the uncertain continuation of other state and local funds directed at assisting low and moderate income families to secure child care - the prospect of this additional expense becomes a grave concern.

Lastly, we believe SB63 will create additional administrative burdens. In gathering the data, our payroll administrator said, "...frankly, I can't even image how we would keep track since so many of our part time staff have "several" positions in several departments at several hourly wages depending on the program they operate."