

# Middlesex Coalition for Children

**Testimony of Izzi Greenberg, Executive Director, Middlesex Coalition for Children**

**Human Services Committee**

**SB 1044: An Act Concerning the Recoupment of State Costs Attributable to Low Wage Workers.**

**Izzi Greenberg, Executive Director**

**March 12, 2015**

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Izzi Greenberg and I'm the director of the Middlesex Coalition for Children, a group that works to improve outcomes for low-income children in Middlesex County. I am testifying in support of SB 1044, "An Act Concerning the Recoupment of State Costs Attributable to Low Wage Workers.

I have been following the state budget this year and have been testifying against budget cuts that affect programs that serve Connecticut's lowest income residents. I understand how hard it is to balance the budget and keep the programs that we know are helping people across many sectors. There just isn't enough to go around.

But in a sea of pleas for restoration, SB 1044 is the first bill that I've seen or spoken to that promises to bring some money back by either improving the wages of these same families or pay into a fund that would benefit them directly in other ways. Our state is subsidizing large corporations at our peril. We have families working full time jobs, still unable to adequately feed their families, pay their rent, pay for childcare, transportation and save for the future. We are allowing corporations to profit while we, the taxpayers of the state, subsidize the families who work for them.

This has to stop.

SB 1044 would be the first best step toward bringing people to a fairer wage. And, if the employers still refuse to pay them what they need to live, the corporation would pay into a fund which would support higher quality early education for their children, bringing some balance to another system that is only surviving on the backs of its qualified but underpaid workforce.

I hope you'll support SB 1044 and take the first right step.

Thank you.