



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

March 9, 2015

H.B. 6784, An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave

I would like to address the proposal that Section 1, Section 31-57r(4) is eliminated and how, if this is successful, it would negatively impact the community that YMCAs in Connecticut serve.

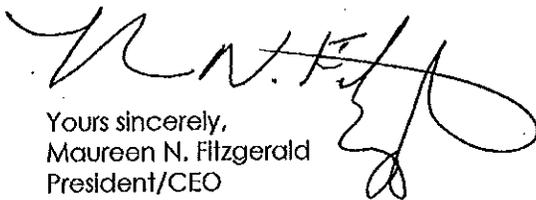
Last year, Connecticut's YMCAs provided almost \$16 million in financial assistance to Connecticut families so they can participate in a number of the Y programs offered across the state. These programs include housing, pre-school, after school, sports programs, art classes, aquatics, diabetes prevention, summer camp, and Cancer Survivorship Programs. The options just mentioned only scratch the surface of the multitude of programs we offer at Connecticut YMCAs.

Ocean Community YMCA is proud to offer a number of benefits to our hourly employees; these employees are offered free membership with our YMCA, short term disability insurance, and participation in the Y retirement plan upon meeting the eligibility criteria.

This legislation would have a cost impact of over \$850,000 on the YMCAs and significant adjustments would need to be made; 225,000 family members, 13,000 children enrolled in childcare programs and 10,000 volunteers would be affected by the successful elimination of Section 1, Section 31-57r(4).

The 23 YMCAs in Connecticut are the states leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. As a charity, YMCAs across Connecticut exist to strengthen their communities and every day we work with thousands of men, women and children to ensure everyone, regardless of age, income or background – has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. These are not easy tasks to accomplish and this legislation would make it that much more difficult.

I thank you for the time taken to read this letter and I hope that you will consider opposing the elimination of H.B. 6784 that would expand Paid Sick Leave.


Yours sincerely,
Maureen N. Fitzgerald
President/CEO

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YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.