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H.B. 6784, An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave
Labor Committee
March 5, 2015

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 23 YMCAs across the state of Connecticut.

I'm here today to raise concerns regarding H.B. 6784, An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave. We are opposed to the elimination of Section 1. Section 31-57r(4) "any nationally chartered organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, that provides all of the following services: Recreation, child care and education," from state statute.

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

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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.

Connecticut's YMCAs offer a number of benefits to their part-time employees. These employees are offered free membership with our YMCAs, allowed to participate in the Y retirement plan, medical insurance, disability insurance and assistance programs.

The simple fact is this legislation would have a cost impact of over \$850,000 on our member Ys and obviously impact our 225,000 family members, 13,000 children enrolled in childcare programs and 10,000 volunteers.

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.