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Hello, my name is Devane Coke. I recently just became an entrepreneur and am currently enrolled as a senior at the University of Bridgeport in the Ernest C. Trefz school of business. I quit my 8 year Job working in the corporate world to follow dreams of opening my own business and becoming a true, real life, self-made entrepreneur. I have learned so much about business and how our economy works, including processes set in place in our government system, the collection, distribution, and use of our nations funding via U.S. Treasury, GDP, and many more things including the operation of business itself and the hefty taxes/tariffs that all tie into making business operable and potentially profitable in the world we live in today. As a student who has just launched 2 businesses, 1 being a Car Wash business in Bridgeport, CT, I felt I was on the verge of having "real world" success with my own small businesses, but after hearing the horrible and selfish decision of the new tax bill put into place last year (Senate Bill 337) my entire perspective has changed. Now, I only fear failure. Knowing the "Service Type" of business which I just entered into no longer has the traditional ruling that was an important and key factor in my business choice setup makes me feel robbed of the opportunity I planned so hard for before I even got a good fair chance to turn it into something phenomenal. I did many long nights with Break-Even Analysis calculations, Financials, and Minimal Viable Process computing for roughly 2 years to get this right, along with endless planning and research. Now I will be graduating this December (2016) with much debt to follow me, and have a start up venture that has many taxes and fees to pay with it. I already had no where to turn for debt or equity funding, which almost made me feel as if it was not even worth trying to be an Entrepreneur. Just like countless others, I thought- if the government can just step in and demand the car wash industry of Connecticut to change everything because they want more money in their pockets, and have this granted without a public hearing even, then there is a big wrongness to deal with somewhere. The government does not display characteristics of good moral ethics, fairness, or proper procedurals regarding a situation like this! I am very disappointed in Connecticut, in fact, as disappointed as I have ever been since I migrated as a youth from Jamaica to this lovely state I am proud to call my home. It makes me feel as many others believe, which is that Connecticut is only for the rich and care nothing of the middle or low income class. I am so distraught that I even plan to write to General Electric's Board Members to fully express my supporting approval and understanding for their decision to move their headquarters out of this expensive state due to the unfairly imposed taxes on businesses and their complete disregard to meet GE half way with some sort of compromise. That was a great way for GE to take a stand against government bullying and send a message to Connecticut Senate and others who paid no mind to an iconic and historical figures value who was loyal to our local region. I am in no way a vigilant person, but I feel much resentment towards Connecticut for doing a thing like this when other states are actually doing everything to help encourage economic growth. NY already has 10 year tax free business programs just to promote the start of new businesses! After all, small businesses are one of the saviors to the current state of the economy and Job Market. Helping small business in any ways possible can only increase the economic situation. This is part of all I have seen and connected in my studies since I have been enrolled at UB, so why would Connecticut do the exact opposite? We need someone to take a stand for the small voices, and I am yelling at the top of my lungs for help. Please show that someone is listening that can make a

change against Senate Bill 337. We need to make things return back to how it has always been traditionally in structure and should remain. A car wash is only a service type business, the government will lose nothing but respect from hard working laborers to eliminate the act. If this act gets eliminated, I am positively sure that Connecticut would see this as a show of appreciation as well as give initiative to small business owners or potential small business owners in the state. This would help increase economic growth and have incentive to influence other possible entrepreneurs outside the state, to bring their business to the state of Connecticut the future.