



**Connecticut Conference  
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-6004

**Testimony in Support of S.B. 391:  
An Act Concerning the Recoupment of State Costs Attributable to Low Wage Employers  
Submitted by Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate  
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ  
March 8, 2016**

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

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, and I am writing today in support of S.B. 391, An Act Concerning the Recoupment of State Costs Attributable to Low Wage Employers. This legislation would recoup state costs relating to services provided to workers who earn a low wage and who are employed by large employers.

I am writing on behalf of the 235 congregations and more than 67,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ is in support of Economic Justice for all and large, profitable corporations need to pay their fair share if they are not paying their employees enough to support their families' needs. We are committed to a more just and equitable society.

This bill would impose a fee on large, profitable corporations that pay employees less than \$15.00 an hour, in order that the state can recoup costs attributable to low-wage employers. Employers can choose to either raise the pay of their employees or pay a fee; the fees will be put towards programs that help low wage workers survive.

Many low-wage workers rely on public assistance programs such as Medicaid and SNAP. According to the State Office of Fiscal Analysis, last year's proposal to recoup state costs attributable to low-wage employers would generate \$305 million in revenue in the coming fiscal year. Changes in this year's legislation — which would phase in the fee and the size of the affected employers — will result in less revenue. Updated estimates from state analysts will be forthcoming.<sup>1</sup>

All of God's people deserve to earn a living wage so they can support their families, but unfortunately this does not happen. Therefore, the large, profitable corporations need to pay their fair share if they choose to pay their employees a low-wage. This is the right and moral thing for working families. We therefore urge the Committee to support S.B. 391, An Act Concerning the Recoupment of State Costs Attributable to Low Wage Employers, which would recover state costs relating to services provided to workers who earn a low wage and who are employed by large employers.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of S.B. 391.

Many blessings,  
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<sup>11</sup> Office of Fiscal Analysis Connecticut General Assembly



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