

**United Way of Greater New Haven**

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March 18, 2016

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
LOB Room 3700  
Hartford, CT 06106

Attention:  
Co-Chair Mr. John W. Fonfara  
Co-Chair Mr. Jeffrey J. Berger

Dear Mr. Fonfara and Mr. Berger,

United Way of Greater New Haven offers this testimony regarding SB 413 and SB414. We believe that tax exemption for non-profits is important and must be preserved.

United Way believes that there is a need for three functioning sectors of the economy and that over time this model has served our communities well. We need a strong private, for profit sector that allows for robust economic growth and competition. We need a strong government that insures the common good and we need a non-profit sector that allows for people to come together improving communities. This model has served all of us well since Tocqueville identified it as uniquely American in the early days of our nation. The tax exemption status of the non-profit system has been challenged constantly and its importance to the health of the non-profit system has stood the test of time.

Yale University makes an enormous contribution to the great New Haven community. It is a source of jobs, economic development, cultural and artistic life, huge support for quality of life for low-income citizens and world class thought leadership. Yale's institutional citizenship is extraordinary and we are very fortunate to have their leadership in New Haven.

United Way has a relationship with Yale that is critical to our work within the region. We benefit from their expertise with Board Members who provide governance and oversight for our work in the community. We are the beneficiaries of expertise from the state of the art research that they share with our staff and partners. And the United Way has received over \$12,000,000 in financial support over the last ten years.

Sincerely,



Jack Healy  
President and CEO

cc: Richard Jacob,  
Associate Vice President for Federal and State Relations  
Yale University