

**Government Administration and Elections Committee
Public Hearing- Wednesday March 13, 2019
Testimony With Regard to S.B 1040, An Act Concerning the State Employee Campaign**

Good afternoon members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

My name is Annie Scully and I am a Research Analyst at United Way of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.B 1040, An Act Concerning the State Employee Campaign. S.B 1040 seeks to modify the functions of and appointments to the State Employee Campaign Committee, remove references to federations and impose additional requirements on participating charitable organizations.

The Connecticut State Employee Campaign (CSEC) is the annual opportunity for Connecticut State Employees to contribute to non-profit charities through their workplace. Generous donations made through the CSEC help non-profits such as Connecticut's local United Ways address the challenges faced by many hard working families and individuals across our state.

Connecticut United Ways advance the common good by creating opportunities for all, with a particular focus on education, income/financial security, health, and basic needs – the building blocks for a good quality of life. We engage people and organizations throughout our communities who bring passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. In partnership with schools, government agencies, businesses, community providers and other non-profit agencies, Connecticut United Ways work to meet the needs of Connecticut and its residents.

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We appreciate the Government Administration and Elections Committee's efforts, through S.B 1040, to clarify the role and structure of the State Employees' Campaign Committee. We also commend the committee for refining the criteria for participating charities to ensure that donations made through the CSEC result in the greatest benefit to Connecticut families and capping administration fees at 15%.

S.B 1040 would move away from the federation model in the CSEC with the goal of enabling more inclusivity for nonprofit not directly associated with federations. And S.B 1040 benefits Connecticut residents by defining more specifically that the participating charitable organizations must demonstrate that their programs are located within and serve the state, by documenting the presence in Connecticut of at least one staffed facility.

United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut is honored to be serving as Principal Combined Fundraising Organization (PCFO) for the second year and is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the State's Employee Campaign Committee and Connecticut State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, who has provided important leadership for the Connecticut State Employee Campaign.

Connecticut United Ways salute the work of the Connecticut State Employee Campaign and acknowledge the service and generous donations made by the employees of the State of Connecticut.

Thank you.