

**From:** Denise Henry ([dhenry@sarah-inc.org](mailto:dhenry@sarah-inc.org))

**Sent:** 2019/04/26

**To:** Sean Scanlon, Douglas McCrory, Jason Rojas, Devin Carney, Rick Lopes, Robert Sanchez, Russell Morin, Holly Cheeseman, Christopher Davis, Larry Butler, Emil Altobello, Hilda Santiago, Mary Mushinsky, Vincent Candelora, Roland Lemar, Alphonse Paolillo, John Fonfara, Kevin Witkos, George Logan, Marilyn Moore, Carlo Leone, Henri Martin, Joshua Elliott, David Yaccarino, Stephen Cassano, Laura Devlin, Chris Perone, Livvy Floren, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, John Frey, Jason Perillo, Joseph Gresko, David Rutigliano, Steven Stafstrom, Jack Hennessy, Brenda Kupchick, Terrie Wood, Patricia Billie Miller, Joseph Polletta, Julio Concepcion, James Maroney, Jason Doucette, Kerry Wood, Jill Barry, Stephen Meskers, Quentin Phipps, Leslee Hill, Norman Needleman

**Subject:** Oppose the 25% Property Tax on Nonprofits with Savings Accounts (S.B. 1137)

Dear [recipient's salutation and name],

As the Executive Director of SARAH Inc., a Nonprofit supporting over 800 children, families and adults across the State, I strongly oppose Section 1 of S.B. 1137, which would require nonprofits with savings accounts or endowments to pay a 25% tax on property currently exempt from taxes.

This proposal would take funds from services for people with developmental disabilities and homeless shelters, from people struggling with substance abuse, victims of domestic violence, and arts and cultural programs, among other essential services that serve community needs. For SARAH Inc. this additional cost would also negatively impact our early intervention services and our ability to hire and retain qualified staff. Given our years of flat funding and funding cuts, all additional costs are a threat to our business.

Any tax a nonprofit is required to pay means fewer people will be served. Nonprofits provide services so government does not have to. Paying a tax to government takes away our ability to serve more people. This policy does not make sense, especially at a time when nonprofits are experiencing an increasing demand for services due to the opioid crisis, the emphasis and need on supporting people with disabilities find and keep good paying jobs, and more.

This proposal would also sabotage our relationship with individual and corporate donors who want their contributions to help people, not pay taxes. Nonprofits are already struggling to find and retain new donors.

Simply put, this proposal would divert critical resources away from the people nonprofits serve. It will hurt the most vulnerable people among us. I urge you to take no action on S.B. 1137.

Sincerely,

Denise Henry

1620 Boston Post Road, 1620 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, CT, 06498

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