

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Public Hearing, April 29, 2019

Testimony In Opposition to S.B. 1137, AN ACT CONCERNING DEPOSITS IN LIEU OF TAXES

Submitted by Jason Jakubowski, President & CEO of Foodshare

Thank you Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee for the opportunity to comment on S.B. 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes.

As the President & CEO of Foodshare, I strongly urge you to oppose S.B. 1137. If passed, this bill would impose new taxes on nonprofits and would divert critical resources away from the people served by Foodshare and so many other nonprofits throughout the state.

Foodshare is the regional food bank serving the 42 towns in Connecticut's Hartford and Tolland counties. We fight hunger by providing food and other support to a network of 300 partner programs, including food pantries, community kitchens, homeless shelters, and Mobile Foodshare sites. Foodshare and our network of non-profit partner programs are already hard-pressed to meet the high demand for assistance that currently exists in our communities. We distribute 11 million meals each year, stretching our limited resources to help as many people as we can. Even with all of this effort, hunger is still a persistent and pervasive issue in our region. In Connecticut, 1 out of 8 people is food insecure and lacks access to enough food.

For every dollar in our budget, Foodshare is able to provide 2.5 meals to our neighbors in need. Each dollar that Foodshare would be required to spend on the new taxes proposed in S.B. 1127 would mean 2.5 fewer meals provided to our community. This would increase hunger throughout the region, which in turn would harm the overall health and economic stability of our towns and cities.

Solving an issue as complex and pervasive as hunger requires many solutions working together, including government support. We recognize that there are many decisions that go into creating a balanced budget for the State, but urge you to not do so at the expense of our most vulnerable neighbors who need our support.

Sincerely,



Jason Jakubowski, President & CEO

jjakubowski@foodshare.org