

Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas and Members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.
I am opposed to SB 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes.

Requiring our Y to pay a tax to the State of Ct would have a significant negative impact our ability to provide much needed services in our community. Last year our Y was able to provide more than \$430,000 in financial assistance to those who needed it the most in our community. State wide the 23 YMCA in Ct \$11 million dollars was distributed to needy families. Financial assistance allows families across Connecticut to send their children to a quality early childhood program and after school program. It allows adults to improve their health by participating in our Diabetes Prevention Program and our Cancer Survivorship programs. Individuals are provided with housing. Children are able to learn how to swim and attend summer camp. All of this would be in jeopardy if we had to pay a tax of 25% to the State of Ct.

Y's employee almost 8,000 Connecticut residents and over 500,000 Connecticut residents have participated or attended a Y program or event in Connecticut. The State has often said that Not for Profits provide necessary services that are high quality and are efficiently run. We are able to fill the gaps that exists for families in our state. How many Not for Profits will be left to provide services if we have to take money from operations that provide services to needy families in CT? Many difficult financial decisions will need to be made by local Ys if this provision is accepted by the Connecticut General Assembly which will directly the communities we serve. Thousands of families in the Greater Danbury area could be impacted. They have already been hurt by cuts to Care for Kids and other programs that they needed to make ends meet. How many times can we impact those living pay check to pay check?

Our Y is supporting our community by giving 50 teens an opportunity to learn about how our government works in our Youth & Government program. We offered 1,380 residence a "know your numbers" health screening for diabetes, blood sugar and cholesterol testing. And as I mentioned before \$430,696 in financial aid was distributed to families in need in the Greater Danbury Area.

At the end of day if this proposal passes it mean:
Less financial assistance to help families afford quality child care
Less financial assistance to help families afford quality summer camps
Less opportunities for low income middle school and high school students to understand how our government works in Youth & Government

Less opportunities for low income teens to learn about how to go to college
in our Achievers program
It just means less for the 19,000 residence of the Greater Danbury Area

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marie B. Miszewski