



April 26, 2019

Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. I am opposed to S.B 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes. Requiring our YMCA to pay a tax to the State Treasurer would obviously have a very significant impact on the ability of Connecticut's YMCAs to continue to strengthen our communities.

In 2018, the 21 Connecticut Ys, which also includes 36 branches and over 175 program sites, distributed \$11 million in financial assistance and during the past five years our Ys have distributed over \$60 million to families in aid.

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. I would also share with the members of the Committee that we employ almost 8,000 Connecticut residents and over 500,000 Connecticut residents have participated or attended a Y program or event in Connecticut.

Our ability to provide financial assistance, continue to employ thousands of Connecticut residents, and serve our local community will be directly impacted by this proposal. Many difficult financial decisions will need to be made by local Ys if this provision is accepted by the Connecticut General Assembly.

We are already supporting our local communities financial and with a number of programs that positively impact its residents. This would include summer camp, child care, membership, cancer and diabetes programming and many other services.

Southington and Cheshire have hardworking families that need affordable child care services and community health programs – that is what the YMCA provides! Please do the right thing for the communities of Connecticut and do not allow SB 1137 to be voted in!

Sincerely,

Mark Pooler
Chief Executive Officer
SOUTHINGTON-CESHIRE COMMUNITY YMCAs

Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs

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YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Financial assistance available for qualifying individuals and families.

The YMCA is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization.