

From: Randi Rubin Rodriguez (randi@rkidsct.org)

Sent: 2019/04/25

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, David Rutigliano, Steven Stafstrom, Jack Hennessy, Brenda Kupchick, Terrie Wood, Patricia Billie Miller, Joseph Polletta, James Maroney, Norman Needleman, Jason Doucette, Kerry Wood, Jill Barry, Stephen Meskers, Quentin Phipps, Leslee Hill

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

Dear [recipient's salutation and name],

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.

As a small nonprofit in New Haven, who has been at the forefront of neighborhood revitalization by our development of 2 lots that were abandoned and crime infested, our existence has already reduced the necessary services of our local police department and increased the prevention efforts in our neighborhood.

Our staff team is already paid at a wage at least 40% less than their State employee counterparts. And are still expected to work with the same families, children and do very similar although much more beneficial work for these families and the children's futures (our reunification rates for our families has NEVER fallen below 87%, vs the 50-62% DCF!)

To expect us to pay a tax on top of the sweat equity our State and community receive from us, is enslaving.

I urge you to VOTE NO on this bill. This can have major implications on our donor base and could jeopardize their tax exempt opportunities for their donations!

Our families need our services and if anything, the state could look at the wage differential for community nonprofits and try to develop a more equitable approach to contract negotiations.

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.

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, wait lists for residential services for people with disabilities, 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.

Thank you for your efforts to improve the quality of life for CT residents. Please do not forget the most vulnerable within one of the wealthiest states in our Country!

Sincerely,
Randi Rubin Rodriguez
45 Dixwell Ave, New Haven, CT, 06511

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