

From: Barry Simon (barry.simon@oakhillct.org)

Sent: 2019/04/25

To: Sean Scanlon, 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, Patricia Billie Miller, Joseph Polletta, James Maroney, Norman Needleman, Jason Doucette, Kerry Wood, Jill Barry, Quentin Phipps, Leslee Hill, Douglas McCrory

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

Dear [recipient's salutation and name],

As the head of Oak Hill I must let you know 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. We have gone 14 years with flat or reduced rates. We use every penny of the interest from our endowment to subsidise the inadequate rates that the State pays. We are already struggling mightily, and now this? We need more resources, not less to cover our cost of providing services to the State.

This proposal would take funds from our services for people with developmental disabilities and other essential services that serve community needs. This would create more program closures, which are already happening (10 in the past 2 years) and reduce jobs.

Any tax a nonprofit is required to pay means fewer people will be served. We 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.

Sincerely,
Barry Simon
120 Holcomb Street, Hartford, CT, 06112

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