



Harold Sparrow
President and CEO, YMCA of Greater Hartford
S.B. 1137, AN ACT CONCERNING DEPOSITS IN LIEU OF TAXES
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
April 29, 2019

Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas, and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Harold Sparrow, and I am the President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Hartford. The YMCA of Greater Hartford opposes S.B. 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes.

This bill would require the YMCA of Greater Hartford to pay a property tax, which would divert the funds we use to assist families. Last year alone, the YMCA of Greater Hartford provided over \$2 million in financial assistance.

The financial assistance these families received allowed children to attend early child development programs, enroll in afterschool programs, and enjoy summer camp. It allowed seniors to sign up for our programs. Cancer survivors were able to participate in the free LIVESTRONG® at the Y cancer recovery program. Children learned to swim. The YMCA of Greater Hartford builds lifelong success and engages people throughout their lives, regardless of their ability to pay.

I would also share with the committee that our YMCA served over 108,000 members and participants last year. The bill would impact our ability to provide financial aid to families that want to become active members of the YMCA of Greater Hartford and healthier citizens.

We also employ over 1,500 personnel at the YMCA of Greater Hartford, and we have over 900 volunteers who positively impact the local communities we serve. I am concerned that a reallocation of any of our resources will negatively impact many of our employees and volunteers.

The YMCA of Greater Hartford will need to make many difficult financial decisions if this bill is approved by the Connecticut General Assembly. I urge the members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to reject this proposal.