

From: Kathleen Stauffer (kstauffer@thearcct.org)

Sent: 2019/04/26

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, Joseph Gresko, David Rutigliano, Steven Stafstrom, Jack Hennessy, Brenda Kupchick, Terrie Wood, Patricia Billie Miller, Joseph Polletta, Julio Concepcion, 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],

26 April 2019

THE ARC EASTERN CONNECTICUT – SERVING FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOR 66 YEARS

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislative Committee:

My name is Kathleen Stauffer and I live in Mystic. I am Chief Executive officer of The Arc Eastern Connecticut, and I am testifying against SB 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes. I respectfully urge the Committee NOT to pass this legislation.

1. **THREE STRONG REASONS NOT TO PASS THIS BILL!** a) The State of Connecticut would penalize human service providers for their greatest strength: frugality and efficiency. This is counter-intuitive public policy! Further, people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families would face an even more fragile safety net. b) Connecticut woefully underfunds its nonprofits relative to other New England states. Department of Developmental Disabilities contractors must surrender any year-end surplus already. To penalize a nonprofit for responsible behavior VIOLATES BEST PRACTICE, which calls for a 7% reserve ongoing. c) By penalizing practical fiscal planning, Connecticut would force its valuable nonprofit safety net into a precarious crisis zone similar to the one in which the state now finds itself!
2. **WHO WE ARE.** The Arc ECT is a 66-year-old, grassroots agency in Eastern Connecticut founded by families looking for NON-INSTITUTIONAL opportunities for loved ones.
3. **WHO WE SERVE.** The Arc ECT serves 900+ people with I/DD in Eastern Connecticut with a constituent network of more than 2,500 voters. Services range from residential to in-home supports to employment services. The Arc's Community Life & Advocacy program, funded by public events and United Way of SE CT, provides critical respite to 200+ adults and families, support groups for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse, Special Olympics and rides to the polls so people with I/DD can vote.
4. **JOBS.** The Arc ECT employs more than 440 adults contributing more than \$9,000,000 in wages to EASTERN CT's economy. Nearly 30% of employees are minorities and 72.7% are women.
5. **ECONOMIC IMPACT.** The Arc ECT spends \$1.5 million each year on gasoline, fuel oil, groceries, office supplies, hardware, furniture and health insurance alone and is a leader in advocating for economic recovery in Connecticut.

Please oppose this bill! It threatens the well-being of people with IDD, Connecticut's human safety net and Eastern Connecticut's fragile economic recovery. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Stauffer
Chief Executive Officer

Sincerely,
Kathleen Stauffer
339 Heather Glen Lane, Mystic, CT, 06355

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