



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

April 28, 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 writing in opposition to S.B. 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes. Requiring a YMCA to pay a tax, or make a payment in lieu of a tax, to the State Treasurer would have a significant impact on the ability of Connecticut 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 through important programs that serve financially disadvantaged youth and families. During the past five years, our Ys have distributed \$60 million to families in aid.

Financial assistance allows families across Connecticut to send their children to quality early childhood programs and after school programs. It allows adults to improve their health by participating in our Diabetes Prevention and 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 in a Y program or event in the past year.

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, and passage of S.B. 1137 will significantly diminish our ability to serve the community.

Connecticut YMCAs already support local communities by welcoming all – regardless of ability to pay. Specifically, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA provides critical programming and services that build character in youth, prevent water accidents, close the achievement gap, strengthen health and wellness, prevent Type 2 Diabetes, and end chronic homelessness.

I urge you not to vote in favor of S.B. 1137, a bill that would hurt YMCAs and the Connecticut neighborhoods and citizens that we serve.

Thank you for your service.

David Stevenson, Ph.D.
President & CEO