From: The Kennedy Center, Inc. (kczaplinski@kennedyctr.org)
Sent: 2019/04/29
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, 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, 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, Marilyn Moore, David Rutigliano

Subject: Oppose the 25% Property Tax on Nonprofits with Savings Accounts (S.B. 1137 & S.B. 1138)

Dear [recipient's salutation and name],

We strongly oppose S.B. 1137, "An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes," which would require tax-exempt not-for-profits to pay a 25% tax on property currently exempt from taxes.

This new tax proposal, filed by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, would have a devastating impact on essential services provided by not-for-profits like The Kennedy Center and would critically erode the relationship between donors and not-for-profits.

We work diligently to provide essential services to our most vulnerable populations. The Kennedy Center's philanthropic efforts ensure 2,400 individuals have basic needs met. As a community service provider, we are limited to fixed rates that are not in alignment to the true cost of providing service. We rely on philanthropy to fill those significant shortfalls.

If a 25% tax is imposed on the statewide disability provider system, we would be forced to lay-off employees and reduce services, thereby overwhelming state and municipal programs.

The Kennedy Center's 750 tax-paying employees empower more than 2,400 individuals with disabilities, and together contribute to our community and state economy. As we work to solve some of the state's biggest issues through innovation, we should not be penalized for having a safety net for those employees and persons we support.

Any tax a not-for-profit is required to pay means fewer people will be served. This policy does not make sense, especially at a time when The Kennedy Center and other organizations are experiencing an increasing demand for services.

Once again, I remind you this proposal would sabotage relationships with individual and corporate donors who want their contributions to help people that are connected to and served by The Kennedy Center, not to be supplanted by the state as a tax.
Simply put, this proposal would divert critical resources away from the most vulnerable people in our state. We urge you to take no action on S.B. 1137.

Sincerely,
The Kennedy Center, Inc.
2440 Reservoir Avenue, Trumbull, CT, 06611

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