

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

My name is Taylor Biniarz, I live in Ellington, and I am a member of the Recovery for All coalition. I am testifying in strong support of HB 6187 and SB 821. This year has been a painful struggle for so many of us. This pandemic has further exposed Connecticut's deep economic disparities and pushed many to the brink of desperation. The scale of this crisis demands what should not be but what is a bold response—people are suffering and our state has a responsibility to meet our needs.

I work in this field, politics particularly campaigns which as you all know were very different last year. This pandemic affected and limited which jobs I could get, and while I was able to snag one, it was for a very short time. This was a problem before the pandemic started as I do not have a degree. It is very difficult for me to find political work, which is where my drive and passion are, for longer than a few weeks, maybe a couple months at most.

I have been a proponent of raising taxes on those who make more than they could ever realistically use for years now, as no one ever makes that much money without exploiting and stepping on the backs of the workers. The governor's budget fails to meet this moment because there is a lack of experience of what we are going through. The working class has had this burden placed on it's back while the ultra wealthy avoid their responsibility. If you make less than \$53,000 a year, you pay an effective tax rate more than triple that of someone making over \$680,000 a year.

When you have that much money, more money than you can ever use in your life, I do not understand how you can see so much suffering and not help in any way you could. How your greed and selfishness could win over seeing people sleep in the streets, people including children going hungry. How people are taking on hundreds of thousands of debt just to get to a better place that then moves out of reach with loans they may never pay off.

I have heard some say that they cannot wait until we can go back to the way it was before and we cannot do that. This pandemic while awful is an opportunity to fix these issues that have only been made worse in the past year.

8 of CT 14 billionaires have actually increased their wealth during this pandemic. While 400,000 lost their jobs and continue to struggle to get by not knowing how they are going to eat, or use heat when it was the winter months, the rich increased the amount of wealth by greedily continuing the known practices where they get richer while the rest of us keep falling further down. This is not new, and this is not due to the pandemic, it has been their strategy forever.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to stop the hurt so many families are feeling by funding essential services, reducing economic and racial inequality, and setting our state on a

path to robust economic recovery by restoring fairness to our tax code, I urge the Committee to have the courage to make the right choice and pass HB 6187 and SB 821. I welcome any questions you may have.