



Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee Public Hearing

March 24, 2021

HB 6654 – An Act Establishing a Child Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax.

HB 6443 - An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget

Good afternoon Chairman Fonfara, Chairman Scanlon, ranking members, and members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. My name is Zak Leavy and I am a legislative and political coordinator for AFSCME Council 4, a union representing over 30,000 public and private employees across Connecticut. I am submitting testimony in favor of ***HB 6654, An Act Establishing a Child Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax.***

Connecticut has ignominiously become a leader in income inequality over the last decade. We have a tax system that disproportionately benefits top income earners and the wealthiest in our state while continuing to put burdens on working families. HB 6654 would create a child tax credit for families making under \$210,000. This would cut taxes for working and middle-class families up to \$1,800. This type of tax cut would be transformative for families in Connecticut.

Currently, 13.3% of children in our state live in poverty. Creating a tax credit would help lift children and families out of poverty and give them more money to take home. HB 6654 would also create a continued benefit for parents and families throughout their childhood which would bring more economic stability to peoples' lives. This tax credit for families will also help families get ahead rather than struggling to buy life necessities. It would help spur additional economic activity through more spending power at a time when small businesses need it most.

We strongly urge the committee to support ***HB 6654, An Act Establishing a Child Tax Credit Against the Personal Income Tax.***

We are also submitting testimony to urge the committee to reject ***HB 6443, An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget.*** Throughout Covid-19 we have seen the wealthiest in our state continue to grow their portfolio and wealth as working families were on the frontlines providing vital services. The Governor's proposed budget aids the wealthy and provides little to no relief for working families that have sacrificed for the past year. Council 4 urges the committee to instead support ***HB 6187*** and ***SB 821*** which would make investments in communities by asking

the wealthiest to a nominal increase on their wealth that has improved during this pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on these bills.