



HB 6187 An Act Concerning the Restructuring of Certain Taxes and Equity  
SB 821 An Act Concerning the Reformation of Certain Taxes and Tax Equity

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is Nick Teeling and I'm a resident of Winsted and a supporter of the Recovery for All coalition. Thanks for holding this public hearing today. **My testimony is in strong support of H.B. 6187 and S.B. 821.**

Our state needs a true recovery from this pandemic, a recovery for all and not the privileged few. Many members of our communities are still without work, struggling to put food on the table, to make ends meet, or to afford healthcare.

I'm hoping members of this committee will soon be hearing supportive testimony on another bill, S.B. 842, that would create a public healthcare option. In addition to the public option, S.B. 842 would expand Medicaid for our families and provide coverage for the undocumented individuals currently unfairly left out of the healthcare market. **Healthcare is a human right, and in order to provide coverage for all people we need equitable and progressive revenue to fund these and other proposals.**

With a Recovery for All, we can expand the state rent relief program to help those who are at risk of eviction, and establish a universal right to counsel for tenants facing eviction proceedings. The fabric of our communities, as well as the safety and security of our children and families, requires stable housing. No one should be unhoused. **We must expand housing support services so no one falls through the cracks, and make the necessary investments in affordable housing.**

The only path to a robust economic recovery is to go big and to go bold. Economic recovery lagged after the Great Recession entirely because of state-level austerity and cuts to the public sector. We can't make those same tired mistakes again. Without bold action now, we risk damaging our economy for years. And to be clear -- that damage will be felt by the *many* and not the privileged few. **While Connecticut's 17 billionaires became even richer during the pandemic, working people like me got the short end of the stick over and over again. It's time for the wealthy to pay their fair share and fund a recovery for all.**

We have the opportunity right now to stop the hurt so many families are feeling by funding essential services, greatly expanding affordable healthcare, 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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Teeling  
Winsted, CT