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March 12, 2021

To: Members of the Finance, Bonding and Revenue Committee

Re: [HB 6187](#) An Act Concerning the Restructuring of Certain Taxes and Tax Equity

[SB 821](#) An Act Concerning the Reformation of Certain Taxes and Tax Equity

Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is Denise Weeks and I live in Glastonbury, CT. As a member of the Recovery for All coalition, I am testifying in strong support of HB 6187 and SB 821.

This year has seen many Connecticut families on the margins struggle for survival while others in the state were able to work from home and watched the value of their investments soar. This disparity between rich and poor in the state is nothing new, but it has been exacerbated and further exposed by the COVID pandemic. It's time the state takes bold action to ensure that those who have benefitted most from our economy, EVEN during this pandemic, bear their fair share of the cost of recovery. The scale of this crisis demands a bold response—people are suffering and our state has a responsibility to meet our needs.

- Service workers in the hotel, restaurant, retail and entertainment sectors have lost jobs or seen their hours cut dramatically. Many struggle to feed their families and pay their bills; many are facing eviction. We cannot let them bear the brunt of this crisis while those fortunate enough to continue to work from home and enjoy an investment win-fall bear none of the pain of the recovery.

The revenue raised by this bill would provide direct payments and tax relief to help struggling families get through and recover from this crisis.

- Connecticut leads the country in income and wealth inequality. 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.

This bill corrects a long-standing inequity in our tax code by ensuring that the wealthy pay a greater *percentage* of their income than low earners in the state.

- State-level austerity and cuts to the public sector after the Great Recession of 2008 delayed recovery by over four years. Governor Lamont's proposed budget chooses to ignore these lessons and makes cuts when we need stimulus and investment. We cannot prioritize the ultra-wealthy over our state's economic recovery.

The lesson from the 2008 Great Recession is that the risk is not going too big – it's going too small. This crisis is even bigger than 2008. We must take bold action now or risk damaging our economy for years

With this bill 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Denise Weeks