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**H.B. 5607, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS TO REPLENISH THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND**

Representative Walker, Senator Osten and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

My name is Tabitha Stein and I am the Chief Financial Officer of The Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs, Inc. I would like to share some of my thoughts regarding H.B. 5607, An Act Concerning the Use of COVID-19 Relief Funds to Replenish the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.

As a non-profit organization, we pay for 100% of the costs of unemployment benefits paid to employees who have been laid off due to COVID-19. I would request the legislation be modified to reimburse non-profit organizations from COVID relief funds for coverage of the remaining 25% of self-insured unemployment insurance claims.

The pandemic has meant nonprofits faced an unexpectedly large insurance bill. By all accounts, these bills are one of the most problematic issues facing YMCA's statewide in 2021, because Y's laid off or furloughed 70-90% of their staff during the pandemic. Our YMCA has paid \$173,567 in unemployment insurance claims during the past year. It has been financially devastating and has required us to reduce the financial assistance and other services we provide to families.

I respectfully urge you to cover non-profits' unemployment burden to lessen this financial strain on YMCA's in Connecticut, so that we will be able to continue to serve our communities during these unparalleled times.

**THE SOUTHINGTON-CHESHIRE COMMUNITY YMCAS, INC.**

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**The YMCA is a 501c3 organization.** YMCA offers financial assistance to qualifying individuals and families.