

Chairspersons Fonfara and Scanlon and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

As president of Trinity College, I write to express my full support of the tiered PILOT program proposed in Section 11 of Senate Bill 873, which provides for a higher reimbursement rate for cities with the lowest equalized net grand list per capita.

The tiered PILOT proposal recognizes that colleges, hospitals, and other community-serving non-profits concentrate within urban centers and serve the public good by providing critical resources and assistance that benefit *all* Connecticut residents and not just those living within those municipalities.

Non-profit colleges and universities are tax exempt in every state in the country. This status provides necessary and important support, allowing colleges and universities to pursue their basic mission of teaching, research, and service. Because of such policies, universities are able to survive now and for future generations. The importance of mutual support has never been clearer than during the pandemic. Despite significant fiscal challenges caused by the pandemic, Trinity has supported the state and the community by providing space for drive-up testing and vaccines, delivering meal care packages to Dream Camp campers, and providing contactless tax preparation services on campus.

We currently invest almost \$2 million in initiatives that provide direct benefits to the community including investing in a neighborhood redevelopment organization: <https://sinainc.org/>, providing access to technology and the internet through TrinFo Cafe: <https://trinfocafe.org/> and providing children the opportunity to have an enriching and high-quality summer experience: <https://www.trincoll.edu/dreamcamp/>.

We are proud of our partnerships with the City of Hartford and many community-based organizations, and we urge you to support Senate Bill 873 to help support the city's need for resources so we can continue to work together to improve the quality of life of all who live, work and play in our great city. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanne Berger-Sweeney

President and Professor of Neuroscience