



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

TESTIMONY

From: Greg Brisco, CEO

Date: March 15, 2021

RE: H.B. 5607

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

My name is Greg Brisco and I am the CEO of the Northwestern Connecticut YMCA. 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 percent of the costs of unemployment benefits paid to employees who have been laid off and have not returned to work due to COVID-19.

We humbly request the legislation be modified to reimburse non-profit organizations from COVID relief funds for coverage of the remaining 25 percent of self-insured unemployment insurance claims.

More than ever, our communities turn to YMCAs in their hour of need— we must do all we can to ensure that Y's have the resources needed to be able to respond. With community needs for subsidized services at an extremely high level, this modification would help us to continue to serve those who need it the most. Unemployment tax policies that penalize non-profits precisely because they historically kept their staff employed is counterproductive to restarting the state economy.

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

NORTHWEST CT YMCA

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