

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 Patrick Marchand and I am the CEO from YMCA Camp Mohawk. 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 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 percent of self-insured unemployment insurance claims.
- If the bill was modified to help non-profit organizations it would alleviate the unprecedented cash flow shortages that YMCAs are experiencing.
- The pandemic has meant nonprofits faced an unexpectedly large insurance bill. By all accounts, these bills are one of the most problematic issues facing YMCAs statewide in 2021, because Ys laid off or furloughed 70-90 percent of their staff during the pandemic.
- 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.

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