



**Testimony of Ginny Kozlowski, Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation of New Haven in support of SB 873 AN ACT MITIGATING ADVERSE TAX CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM EMPLOYEES WORKING REMOTELY DURING COVID-19, AND CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF LIENS ON THE PROPERTY OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFICIARIES AND A THREE-TIERED GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES PROGRAM  
February 12, 2021**

Dear Senator Osten and Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee:

I write in strong support of this committee including the necessary funding to ensure Senate Bill 873, which will create three need-based tiers within the PILOT formula, is implemented for the next fiscal year. New Haven is the proud home of Yale New Haven Health and Yale University. We have seen the tremendous efforts they have made to protect the health of Connecticut residents throughout the pandemic.

Yet as the home of these entities and many other nonprofits, New Haven has nearly 60% of our property being non-taxable. This has resulted in one of the highest property taxes in Connecticut where we are still unable to adequately fund our schools and public services. Designated an economically distressed city by the State of Connecticut, our challenges are well-documented and we believe that the three need-based tiers within the PILOT formula could create dramatic and sustained improvement in the living conditions of our residents, particularly those residents in the lower income brackets who have been disproportionately impact by the pandemic.

The current PILOT funding has failed to meet the needs of our residents. Typically, the city has been funded between 35-38% of our statutory reimbursement. For college and hospital PILOT, which makes up the grand share of our non-taxable property, our funding has fallen below 25%. This is not sustainable.

This legislation would change that, bringing our reimbursement to 50% of funding and putting us on track to fiscal stability. New Haven is widely accepted as the economic engine of Connecticut and more secure financial footing would encourage increased investment in our city.

For these reasons, I urge you to support this funding.

Respectfully,

Ginny Kozlowski  
CEO