



Finance Committee public hearing testimony in Support of Senate Bill 29 An Act Concerning the Earned Income Tax Credit, Senate Bill 28 An Act Establishing a Capital Gains Surcharge and Senate Bill 21 An Act Concerning a Statewide Property Tax on Certain Residential Real Property

**Lynne Ide, Director of Policy & Program, Universal Health Care Foundation of CT
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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of three bills being heard by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee at the March 3, 2022 public hearing. Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is an active member of the Recovery for All, a robust coalition of community, labor and faith organizations.

Universal is dedicated to working with partners to achieve health, racial, economic, and social justice for every resident of this state. Achieving equity and justice across these areas of struggle requires revenue - revenue that is centered in equity and builds opportunity for all people, particularly Black and Brown people and those most left behind by the status quo.

The three bills we support today (SB 29, SB 28 and SB 21) exemplify the kind of policies our state must adopt to move toward equity in its tax policy. You will hear compelling testimony from our allies in the Recovery for All coalition, as well as evidence from experts. We urge Finance Committee members to listen to people representing communities across the state and vote to support all three bills.

We were especially pleased to see Senate President Marty Looney and House Speaker Matt Ritter come out in support of a permanent expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to 41.5% and funded by the state. This would be a tremendous boost to low-income family security and help support economic growth via increased household spending capacity. We urge the Finance Committee to adopt additional progressive revenue sources to help support the EITC expansion in perpetuity, as well as other policies that invest in low-income hard-working families and individuals.

We believe there is broad support to establish a 1% surcharge on capital gains earnings for households earning over \$1 million and individuals earning over \$500,000. This would raise \$130 million annually, providing resources to invest in families and communities. Adopting policies such as this provide just a few bricks to pave the path to equity, but they add up over time.

I serve as the chair of the Board of Education in Windham, a school district with the highest percentage of English Language Learners of any district in the state, as well as huge special education costs. We are in the same cohort as the state's bigger cities, and with extremely high mill rates, we struggle to squeeze property taxes out of local taxpayers for our education budget each year. Our students lose as a result. It is long overdue for Connecticut to adopt bills like a statewide property tax on homes assessed with a value of \$1.2 million or more and reinvest in our state's students. Our future is in our youth.

Finally, we urge you as legislators to promote further efforts to expand progressive revenue and support for families and communities across the state. Examples of such policies are in Recovery for All's expansive agenda, and include establishing a state level child tax credit, doubling the property tax credit and raising personal income tax rates on high earners.

We must keep marching forward for equity and justice and you can help by supporting these and other bills. Thank you.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut's mission is to accelerate the movement for health justice for everybody because health is a human right and core to social justice and equity.