

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement of Wade Gibson, Senior Policy Fellow,
on House Budget Bill**

The budget bill approved by the House upholds vital priorities for Connecticut's children, but the questionable practices it relies on to balance spending and revenues showcase the need for a more sustainable system of generating state revenues.

We applaud lawmakers for passing a budget that advances early education and health coverage and preserves supports for low-income families in the state. However, we are concerned about the budget practices employed to make things balance. A heavy reliance on borrowing and a variety of one-shot revenues will leave holes in future budgets. At the same time, multiple fund transfers and accounting changes obscure precisely how revenues and spending were brought into balance.

These quick-fix budget practices highlight the need for a state tax system that allows us to fund important priorities adequately, and in a way that the public can understand and trust. Raising sustainable revenues is essential to making investments in children, who are our collective future.

The Fiscal Policy Center at Connecticut Voices for Children, launched in October 2012, provides research, analysis, and recommendations on state and federal budget and tax policies (ctvoices.org/fiscal).

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