

Amended by Committee 01/18/2023

RESOLUTION NO. _____
SENSE OF THE BOARD
URGING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
CONNECTICUT TO MAKE THE ELIMINATION OF LOCAL BUS FARES PERMAMENT
FOR ALL BUS RIDERS

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Connecticut has suspended local fares on buses operated by CT Transit until March 31, 2023 in response to rising inflation, among other things; and

WHEREAS, buses are an essential mode of transportation for working- and middle-class families, young people, and ~~individuals~~ **students, among others**, who cannot afford to or otherwise do not want to own an automobile, many of whom live in the city of Stamford; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that pay-per-use fees for transportation, such as bus fares and highway tolls, are regressive taxes that disproportionately affect the most financially vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, the estimated ~~cost investment~~ of making bus travel free ~~for three months annually~~ is ~~\$8.418~~ million, a small fraction of ~~annual~~ infrastructure spending by the Connecticut Department of Transportation ~~every year~~; and

WHEREAS, a study of the impact of making bus rides free in Kansas City, Missouri in 2020 found that ridership increased, overall regional greenhouse gas emissions decreased, jobs were created, and economic output for the region was increased as a direct result of the elimination of fares; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Hartford and New Haven have passed similar resolutions directed toward the Governor and the General Assembly relating to the elimination of local bus fares.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 31ST BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT it calls on the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Connecticut to make the elimination of local bus fares permanent for all bus riders.