



March 9, 2015

Pennsylvania Auditor General
Eugene DePasquale
Department of the Auditor General Finance Building
613 North Street, Room 229
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018

Dear Auditor General,

We appreciate your invitation to attend the hearing on Thursday, March 12, 2015 in Pittsburgh concerning Senate Bill 4. On behalf of the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership's Advisory Team, I submit to you, as testimony, this letter and the attached GPNP statement on SB4.

The GPNP Advisory Team would be honored to meet with you in the near future. We would like to work together with you to identify creative and collaborative proposals to solve our communities' needs. We would also like to discuss your report, "Potential Lost Revenue from Tax Exempt Properties" (December 2014).

In your special report you assert there is over \$1.5 billion in "potential lost revenue" due to tax-exempt property in the ten counties listed. According to the chart on your website, these figures *include government property*. We wonder if you can help us understand the total dollar amount that is *specific to government* and the total dollar amount that is *specific to purely public charities*? We feel this distinction is important because it will assist the nonprofit sector and the public in clearly understanding the context of the current issue at hand.

The nonprofit sector is a diverse and vital contributor to the quality of life of all Pennsylvania citizens. We feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. We protect all children. We provide health services to the poor, the mentally ill, and the addicted. We care for our seniors. We promote literacy. We revitalize lower income communities. We educate and prepare Pennsylvania's workforce. We teach environmental stewardship. We inspire creativity and fight for social justice. The nonprofit sector employs hundreds of thousands of individuals across the state. Most importantly, nonprofits attend to work that is largely cost-prohibitive to government; it is important that the sector be able to continue this important work.

We are certain that you appreciate the value the sector provides the Commonwealth and we look forward to working with you to assure that Pennsylvania grows stronger every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Balbier". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Samantha Balbier
Executive Director