



CT Association of Centers for Independent Living
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**Testimony of Gary E. Waterhouse, Executive Director
CT. Association of Centers for Independent Living
February 8, 2007
Before
Select Committee on Housing of the CT. General Assembly**

CACIL a non-profit corporation consisting of five (5) Centers for Independent Living (CIL) located in Hartford, Norwich, West Haven, Naugatuck and Stratford. CILs are community based, non-residential, consumer controlled and cross-disability. Each follows the Independent Living Philosophy of self-help, self-reliance and self-determination.

CACIL SUPPORTS

Proposed H.B. No. 5047 ***AN ACT INCREASEING FUNDING FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS.***

Affordable, accessible, visitable housing for all is a common goal. Connecticut needs adequate housing for all its citizens. Major goals related to employment and independent living cannot be achieved if people cannot find a place to live. Yet there is no housing market in the entire country in which a person with a disability living on Supplementary Security Income can afford a safe, accessible modest studio or one bedroom apartment. Connecticut must participate in federal subsidized housing programs to the maximum extent possible, give accessibility requirements some teeth, and pass legislation requiring visitability in all new public housing.