

**TESTIMONY OF**  
**THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF MORTGAGE BROKERS**  
**BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE'S BANKS COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008**  
**11:00 AM, ROOM 2B, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING**

Good Morning. My name is Georgette Natera. I am the president of the Connecticut Association of Mortgage Brokers (CTAMB). With me today is Kirk Hagert, a Board Director with the CTAMB. We represent the voice of the mortgage professional in Connecticut.

**We are here today to support: Senate Bill 21 An Act Concerning Mortgage Lending.**

I have filed my testimony and have attached a position paper of our Association regarding the recommendations of the Sub-Prime Task Force, so I will not read that. In summary, we support the following recommendations:

- Higher net worth requirements in the amount of \$50,000
- Increase of the Surety Bond requirement to \$60,000
- An entrance exam for those entering the mortgage business
- Connecticut's participation in the National Mortgage Licensing System
- Stronger penalties for those that commit fraud

Additionally, I would like to comment on **House Bill 5166 An Act Concerning Mortgage Prepayment Penalties.** We do not have a formal position on the bill at this time; however, we believe it is important for you to understand that some potential effects of the proposal would be to increase interest rates for the customer, limit loan choices, and therefore, reduce home ownership opportunities for the low to moderate income borrower.

In both **SB 21** and **HB 5166**, we urge you to proceed with caution and not to take actions that which unduly would restrict customers' access to credit. Our Association stands ready to work with you in that effort.

This completes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.