



Tower One  
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Fostering Independence and Community - It's All Right Here

## **Testimony regarding S.B. 868 An Act Concerning Payments in Lieu of Taxes for Public Housing and the Low and Moderate Income Tax Abatement Program**

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Green and members of the Housing Committee.

My name is Dorothy Giannini-Meyers. I am the executive at Tower One in New Haven Connecticut.

I am here to testify on behalf of the more than 200 elders living in Tower One, many who are dependent upon Connecticut's Property Tax Grants to keep their rents affordable. Currently an average of 120 of the more than 200 Tower One residents receives assisted living services. If no longer able to afford to pay their rent, a number those residents would face the potential of becoming skilled nursing home patients.

At an average age of 85, Tower One residents live every day valiantly while facing age-related challenges of declining health and physical abilities. To add concerns about the possibility of not being able to afford their rent and then be forced to move to a skilled nursing facility will again place an unnecessary and demoralizing burden of distress on those who receive affordable assisted living services in their Tower One apartments. For them, moving to another apartment to live without services is not a viable option.

To put this in a financial perspective; the property tax grant the state paid to the City of New Haven in the past amounted to approximately \$70,000 each year. This amount comes sharply into focus considering that it would cost about \$85,000 annually to keep just one senior currently living in Tower One in a skilled nursing facility should she or he be unable to afford their rent. It doesn't take a lot to consider what multiplying that by just a few people could mean in terms of cost to the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify about this important problem facing many poor seniors and families in many communities throughout Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

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