



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



March 4, 2009

To: Housing Committee

Re: Bill 5372

Hello Senator Gomes, Representative Green and the Housing Committee:

My name is Mary-Ann Langton, and I am a Disability Policy Specialist at the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council promotes HB 5372, AN ACT FOR ACCESSIBLE HOUSING. We encourage you to use the concept of Visitability housing that would meet everyone's needs.

There are three features that would make new single or two family homes construction be called Visitable. These three features are: 1) One zero step entrance, 2) Wider hallways and doorways and 3) One bath on the main floor with access space for a wheelchair.

Why should you support Visitability housing? People will need the features of Visitability housing as they begin to age. People will be able to age-in-place in their own homes by having these three features. In the 2007 Long Term Care Report, a large number of people reported that they wanted to age in their own homes. In addition, people with physical disabilities will be able visit their family and/or friends in their visitability housing.

The Council hopes that the Housing Committee will envision the importance of Visitability Housing.

Thank you,

Mary-Ann Langton

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Disability Policy Specialist

CT Council on Developmental Disabilities