



Joan McDonald  
Commissioner



State of Connecticut  
Department of Economic and  
Community Development

***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSING COMMITTEE***  
***March 4, 2010***

*Joan McDonald, Commissioner*  
*Department of Economic and Community Development*

***SB 318 AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO CERTAIN HOUSING STATUTES***

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The Department of Economic and Community Development offers the following comments in **SUPPORT** of *Senate Bill 318 An Act Concerning Changes to Certain Housing Statutes*.

This bill is identical to HB 6413 from the 2009 legislative session which successfully passed the House, but was not voted on in the Senate. As the title implies, this bill is meant to address several technical issues in several different housing development statutes. These proposed changes will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the impacted programs. Below is a brief summary of the changes and why they are needed.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 pertain to Housing Partnerships. We are requesting that Housing Partnerships be eligible applicants for our Resident Service Coordinator and our Congregate Housing programs. We are also requesting that Housing Partnerships be codified into the statutes as an eligible recipient for operating subsidies under the Congregate Housing Program similar to the provisions of the Elderly Housing programs. This will significantly reduce the administrative burden on both DECD and Partnerships since presently we must pass these funds through a third party such as a Housing Authority.

Section 4 deals with our database of available units suitable for persons with disabilities. Due to time constraints and DECD's inability to enforce these requirements, some of the required information cannot be practically maintained. This amendment will allow DECD to collect data "to the extent practicable."

Section 5 pertains to our Predevelopment Loan Program. Currently, the program is only open to non-profit developers. We would like to open this program up to allow all housing developers, both for-profit and non-profit, to qualify, as long as their intent is to construct affordable housing.

Sections 6, 7 and 8 all pertain to the Housing Trust Fund Program. Proposed changes include allowing 3<sup>rd</sup> party contract administrators to receive funding and also allowing for the receipt of funding from other sources. Our primary objective behind this change is to be prepared in case we received Federal Housing Trust Fund monies.