



Building the Community Connection



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN

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Karen DuBois-Walton, Ph.D. Executive Director

February 22, 2011

Members of the Aging Committee State of Connecticut Legislative Office Building Hartford, CT 06106-1591

RE: Senate Bill 139, Senior Citizen's Bill of Rights

Dear Members of the Committee on Aging:

The Housing Authority of the City of New Haven is concerned about certain components addressed in the Senate Bill 139, Senior Citizen's Bill of Rights. The Bill unnecessarily complicates the existing tenant landlord law and elderly housing statutory requirements that adequately protects the rights of seniors.

Public housing does not provide for basic daily living needs and Bill 139 imposes services on the elderly population of Public Housing that cannot be met due to fiscal and staffing restraints.

One example, snow removal from cars, requires reevaluation. The costs associated with removing snow from cars of every elderly resident would result in a substantial increase in operating costs and thereby an increase in rent on all residents including those who do not own cars. Additionally, Bill 139 is asking Public Housing to assume responsibility over assets that are not owned or controlled by The Public Housing Authority. If any damage occurs to the vehicle due to snow removal the amount of incidents in damage claims will increase, resulting in an additional financial burden that Public Housing is not able to financially absorb.

Below are the demographics of the Housing Authority of the City of New Haven highlighting the magnitude Bill 139 would have on this agency.

Figure 2 Number of HANH Assisted Households by Type of Housing Assistance: 2006 through 2010 Number Excludes Outbound Ports, Supportive Housing, and Other LIPH

Table with 5 columns: Year (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010) and 1 row: FAMILY DEVELOPMENTS (649, 618, 602, 614, 606)

MIXED-INCOME DEVELOPMENTS	189	188	240	298	299
SCATTERED SITE PROPERTIES	139	134	157	158	170
ELDERLY AND DISABLED PROPERTIES	642	644	668	636	676
ELDERLY ONLY PROPERTIES	180	200	215	224	267
TENANT BASED VOUCHERS	3003	2924	2823	2679	2583
PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS	34	40	82	198	227
Total	4836	4748	4787	4807	4828

As you are aware, President Obama has reviewed the current funding levels of the House appropriations committee and the President's proposed budget will cut assistance to Public Housing during the current fiscal year 2011 and further cuts in 2012. All governmental budgets are currently under review and tighter spending controls are anticipated nationally. It's recognized that Bill 139 has the right spirit but with the many challenges facing our budgetary climate it's not feasible to ask Public Housing to take on additional financial responsibilities.

I am respectfully requesting you to reevaluate Bill 139 and do not implement a Bill that will ultimately cause more harm than safeguard.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Karen DuBois-Walton
Executive Director

CC: Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, 59 Elm Street New Haven, CT 06510
 Senator Toni Nathaniel Harp, Legislative Office Building Room 2700 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Senator Martin Looney, Legislative Office Building Room 330 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Representative Patricia Dillon, Legislative Office Building Room 4019 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Representative Toni Walker, Legislative Office Building Room 2702 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Representative Gary Holden, Legislative Office Building Room 4005 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Representative Juan Candellaria, Legislative Office Building Room 1804 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Representative Roland Lemar, Legislative Office Building Room 4028 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Representative Robert Megna, Legislative Office Building Room 2802 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Mayor John DeStefano, 165 Church street New Haven, CT 06510