

February 25, 2011

Mister/Madam Chairman
Aging Committee
LOB

My name is Kay M. Warren. I live in Ashford, CT. There is a group of us working together to get something done (to insure the safety and dignity of our elder citizens). I asked Senator Tony Guglielmo if he could help us put a bill together to protect "By Law" senior rights at senior centers and senior housing units.

I don't see where the Bill of Rights envelops what I had originally sent to the committee. I have prepared copies of my original request for you all. SB 139 deals basically with housing units with senior centers mentioned sparingly.

If you were to walk into a senior center and someone said to you "You'll have to leave because no one here likes you!" or "You can eat here but you need to leave the building when you are done" or "We should get a gun and shoot the both of them." This is called verbal abuse and threatening respectively. Your safety would be threatened, your dignity shattered and also, bullying. I don't see anywhere in SB 139 that this would be covered.

We really need to have this bill split into two (2) sections--one for senior centers and one for senior housing units. Some problems are the same and yet there are other problems totally different in each to require splitting (see Jan. 26, 2011 that I originally sent the committee).

Seniors should always have the feeling of being safe at their senior center or their housing unit. Some seniors go to their senior centers for socialization. Seniors go for a variety of reasons. Seniors need to be protected against harassment, bullying, threatening, and everything that you see in my presentation. This Senate bill needs to be more thorough than it is now.

Senator Prague has been privy to two meetings with seniors held in Ashford; one concerning the problems at the Ashford Senior Center and one concerning the problems at the Ashford housing unit. Put politics aside and do what is best for seniors in the state of Connecticut.

There also needs to be a (0) tolerance of abuse, bullying, and threatening where seniors are concerned.

Please go back and take a better look at the Bill of Rights and include what I have said above.

Thank you for your time.

Kay M. Warren

