

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE AGING COMMITTEE

February 24, 2011

*Susan Whetstone, Interim President-Executive Director
Connecticut Housing Finance Authority*

**Senate Bill 139. AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS RESIDING IN ELDERLY
HOUSING AND MEMBERS OF SENIORS CENTERS**

Chairman Prague, Chairman Serra and members of the Aging Committee, my name is Susan Whetstone, Interim President-Executive Director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). On behalf of CHFA, I am providing my comments on Senate Bill 139, **AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS RESIDING IN ELDERLY HOUSING AND MEMBERS OF SENIOR CENTERS.**

CHFA was created in 1969 by the State Legislature to help alleviate the shortage of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families and persons in Connecticut, and when appropriate, to promote or maintain the economic development of the State through employer-assisted housing efforts.

Section 1 establishes a senior citizen's bill of rights for residents of elderly housing projects. Existing tenant-landlord law and elderly housing statutory requirements protect the rights of seniors and I would offer that this legislation is not needed.

Section 2 would require housing authorities, nonprofit corporations and municipal developers to remove the snow from any vehicle owned by a resident. The cost associated with removing snow from vehicles would result in substantial increase in operating costs. This added financial burden could result in a rent increase on all residents. A second issue to consider is increased insurance costs for damaged vehicles.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.