

## Statement of Heritage Glen Resident Carmen Aquino to the Housing Committee, February 8, 2011

Chairmen Gomes and Butler, and members of the Housing Committee,

My name is Carmen Aquino and I live in Farmington in a beautiful housing development called Heritage Glen that was built by the Metro Realty Group as an 8-30g development.

I have lived there for a year but previously lived for three years in another Metro Realty Development called Westwoods in Farmington, which was also built as an 8-30g development.

If you are looking for reasons to preserve – and NOT WEAKEN – the 8-30g statute, look at me. Having the opportunity to choose schools, community services and the wonderful neighborhoods these two developments have provided has changed my life.

I was living in New Britain when I learned of the opportunity to move to Farmington. I have a son and a daughter and both children have ADHD. They have prospered in the Farmington school system, where they have been able to get the additional support they need. While I can not be sure that they would have not gotten adequate help if we had stayed in New Britain, it is safe to say that the very committed but very overburdened educators and programs in the New Britain schools might have been unable to commit the time, energy and resources to my children that they have received in Farmington.

Moreover, the neighborhood has been a blessing, too. The children participate in sports and have been able to play in travel leagues and recreational leagues, resources that often are not available in New Britain and other cities. My children are able to play outdoors at all times of the day and can take advantage of many services the town has to offer.

I hope you will not weaken 8-30g. It has allowed homes to be built in many towns all over the state that people of my income level can afford. It has given my family choices they wouldn't have had, and will continue to provide opportunities for parents across the state to choose the homes, schools, neighborhoods and community services that work best for their children. Please keep the law intact for the sake of those families, and our entire state.