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Housing Committee Public Hearing Testimony
March 1, 2011

H.B. No. 6052 - AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

Good morning Chairman Gomes, Butler, Vice-chairs, ranking members and the members of the Housing Committee. I am here to give testimony on HB 6052 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

For the past 10 years I have been working with local non-profit organizations in the greater Bridgeport area to end homelessness. One of the things we have been able to do is to create a public-private relationship that has increased the number of supportive housing units in the City and in the State.

Many developers have been able to see the value of providing these units because it comes with the necessary wrap around services to ensure that tenants are able to meet their rent commitments but also find the services which keep them healthy and stable. Investing in supportive housing is good business for the State. The provision of services in housing units actually end up saving the State money because now the person's frequent use of emergency services will be limited.

What I am requesting of this committee is to join the many cities and towns across the State of CT and help us to end homelessness. If the State requires any developer who uses State assistance to build or rehab any project they must set aside a certain percentage of units to go towards supportive housing. I have visited many places which have supportive housing units and it is amazing to see that there is no visible difference between a regular unit and one which is a supportive housing unit.

Thank you.

Testimony Submitted by,
Andres Ayala, Jr.