

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
**February 9, 2011**

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

***Raised Bill No. 852 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INITIATIVES***

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Chairman Stillman, Chairman Ritter and members of the Public Health 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 **support** of Raised Bill No. 852, **AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INITIATIVES**.

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.

The purpose of this legislation is to clarify the scope of “Supportive Housing Initiatives” cited within current state statutes in order to allow for increased coordination among our partner agencies.

Supportive housing is designed to create permanent, affordable, service-enriched housing opportunities for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, particularly persons experiencing chronic, repeated or persistent homelessness.

This legislation appropriately adds the Department of Correction and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to the list of collaborative partners. In all, Bill 852 encourages a greater degree of partnership across public agencies so that we may continue to develop quality supportive housing throughout Connecticut.

CHFA is pleased to endorse this legislation, and I thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.