

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

*Ronald F. Angelo, Jr., Acting Commissioner*  
*Department of Economic and Community Development*

***SB 852 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INITIATIVES***

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Good afternoon Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter, Senator Welch, Representative Perillo and members of the Public Health Committee. The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) offers the following comments in **SUPPORT** of *Senate Bill 852 An Act Concerning Supportive Housing Initiatives*.

As the title implies, this bill is meant to address technical issues in several different statutes that relate specifically to the supportive housing initiatives of the state. These changes will allow for further coordination of efforts by our partner agencies in the development of supportive housing in Connecticut.

In addition, this bill promotes participation in the establishment and implementation of supportive housing initiatives by both the Department of Corrections and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch. These proposed changes will clarify the definition and scope of the various supportive housing initiatives and memorialize the participation of two very important partners in addressing the service needs of some of our state's neediest persons and families.

Sections 1, 2 & 3 of SB 852 removes the reference to supportive housing as a single initiative, thereby broadening its applicability. As there have been a wide variety of supportive housing activities through the various participating state agencies, this technical revision will promote a consolidated approach to reviewing supportive housing activities, which will make tracking and reporting of these activities much clearer.

In addition, Section 1 formally adds the Department of Correction and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to the list of collaborative partners which meet regularly on supportive housing initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and we would welcome the opportunity to assist the committee in any way possible with this bill.