



**DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY SERVICES**  
*Community Services Administration*  
City of New Haven  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510



**John DeStefano, Jr.**  
Mayor

**Patricia M. Wallace**  
Director

February 14, 2011

**Testimony in Support of Proposed Bill 5591, An Act Extending the Rental Rebate Application Period**

Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile and members of the Committee, I am Patricia Wallace, Director of Elderly Services for the City of New Haven. I urge your support for Bill 5591, An Act Extending the Rental Rebate Application Period. The goal would be to permit, not require, municipalities to accept applications for a longer period.

My Department has the responsibility for staffing the Rental Rebate Program for the City of New Haven. We process about 4500 applications worth \$2.2 million dollars to the elderly and/or totally disabled people we serve. We now do so with half the staff that were available only 2 years ago. Each application requires an in-person interview. The State does not provide any administrative funding to municipalities to pay for the staffing that is required for this labor-intensive program. We are happy to assist the applicants, who are among the neediest people in our State. I am not here to ask you for money, only for additional flexibility to enable me to stretch the amount of time we have to take the applications. Other communities may not need this, and we do not want to force change on them. We have one of the largest numbers of applicants. If it could be the municipality's option to run a longer program period, that would be fine.

Thanks for your kind attention. I'd be happy to provide further information or to respond to questions.

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