

FOR THE

Testimony before the Housing Committee

March 8, 2012

SB 94

DENI YOUNG

Good afternoon members of the Housing Committee and thank you for the opportunity to discuss "Fair Housing" issues concerning *SB 9,4 An Act Concerning the Equal Treatment of Renters with Mental Disabilities.*

My name is Deni Young. I am a 47 year old white female with disabilities. I am a strong woman. I raised five children (four of which had individual disabilities) as a single parent. I survived homelessness with children and again years later with disabilities of my own.

Thank goodness, I didn't have my disabilities while raising my children as they so very needed my full attention.

Barriers are a daily circumstance faced by persons with disabilities. Removing barriers will not only help the persons with disabilities but the community in which the disabled live- "*We must live as a village!*"

The more we help one another, the more we help ourselves. The more we help ourselves, the more we are able to help the ones closest to our hearts. Who knows when a disability will show itself?

As human beings, we should be recognizing the dignity and worth of other human beings in all areas including but not limited to equal housing and employment.

Disabilities cover a broad range and degree of conditions, some visible, some not so visible.

Some are more degenerative than others, (meaning, as time goes by, people may still be able to fully function with the help of added accommodations.)

People need to be protected from discriminations because of disabilities.

As you well know--housing discriminations based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or family status is illegal.

Cordially,

Deni Young