

## Housing Committee

### Public Hearing on Raised Bill No. 5225

March 8, 2012

Testimony of Scott C. Bertrand

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Housing Committee: My name is Scott Bertrand and I am a Past President of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials more commonly known as CONN-NAHRO. I am also the Executive Director of the Enfield Housing Authority where I have worked for over ten years.

***I support Raised Bill No. 5225 -- An Act Concerning Security Deposits of Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities in Public Housing***

The current Statute requires security deposits to be returned after one year of tenancy and there are several issues with the existing law.

First, most tenants resided more than one year before they vacate, leaving no security deposit to offset damages.

Second, for state financed developments, the cost of damages is ultimately borne by the other remaining tenants as there is no ongoing subsidy.

Lastly, due to the administrative burden of returning after one year, we do not even bother to collect one.

This past year the Enfield Housing Authority had experienced about \$5,000 in move damages for the elderly/disabled units. For 2010 the amount was about \$4,500.

With consideration to the above, I urge the Housing Committee to support Raised Bill No. 5225.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott C. Bertrand