



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Spoken  
3/25/13

REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR J. O'NEILL  
SIXTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: (203) 264-3112  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
FAX: (860) 240-0207  
Arthur.ONeill@housegop.ct.gov

*Testimony by Representative Arthur J. O'Neill  
Before the Government, Administration and Elections Committee  
On House Bill 6672  
March 25, 2013*

Good morning Chairman Musto and Jutila, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hwang, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I want to thank you for including section 8 of House Bill 6672. This section includes the substance of a proposed bill that I proposed which would transfer land from the state of Connecticut to become Southbury.

The purpose of this transfer is to allow the town to provide this land to Southbury senior housing authorities for the purpose of developing new subsidized low income senior housing. The Townsouth break has a long commitment to providing such low income housing to seniors. The existing housing in Southbury has a long waiting list. As you may know Southbury has a larger concentration of citizens over the age of 65 years than any town in Connecticut. Most senior citizen low income housing is a more pressing need than in most towns.

With the decline in the economy, especially the decline in interest rates from which many seniors derive a large part of their income, the need for low income senior housing has become even more acute than in the past.

In order for the housing authorities to begin the process of applying for federal grants and or loans, it is necessary for them to identify a location at which they believe that the housing can be built. That process will probably take a year or two to come to fruition. However it cannot start unless a piece of land is identified as the location.

Therefore it is important that the state begin the process of recognizing the need for the senior housing. It is my understanding that the Department of Developmental Services is in the process of closing down what is known as Personnel Village (PV). While it has not closed down PV completely at the present time, it is planned to close down in the near future. Thus identifying this piece of land as a future location for senior housing should not interfere with the department's current operations or its longer-term planning.

I look forward to working with the Department Developmental Services in creating a solution to the needs of both the Department and the Town of Southbury.

Again thank you for including section 8 in the bill and I look forward to working with the committee to see this section reported out along with the rest of the bill.

Thank You

Rep. O'Neill