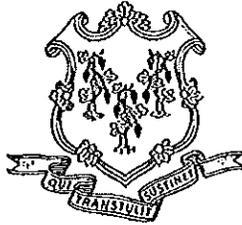


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State of Connecticut
SENATE
Fourteenth District

Chair
Human Services
Vice Chair
Public Health
Veterans' Affairs

Testimony to the Government Administration and Elections Committee

SB 673 An Act Concerning Freedom of Association in Public Housing

February 22, 2013

Dear Chairman Musto, Chairman Jutila, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of Senate Bill 673 An Act Concerning Freedom of Association in Public Housing.

During the 2012 election cycle, it came to my attention that a number of public housing facilities do not allow for common facilities and community rooms to be made available for the purpose of conducting voter registration or to campaign for a political candidate or issue contested by vote. Therefore, a resident of the facility is not allowed to hold events that will help to educate fellow residents on political issues and elections. This policy hinders the ability of residents to expand their political knowledge and actively participate in the democratic process.

Our statutes must ensure that everyone in CT is afforded their First Amendment rights to speech and association. Accordingly, I am requesting that the committee enact legislation that affirms that no public housing facility may deny a resident the right to gather for the purpose of exercising their right to political speech.

I would be delighted to provide the committee with language, assistance or additional information upon your request. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Gayle Slossberg