



# State of Connecticut

## SENATE

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### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 338 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Housing Committee Public Hearing  
February 19, 2013**

Chairpersons Bartolomeo and Butler, Ranking Members McKinney and Miller, and members of the Housing Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 338, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

The Interagency Council on Affordable Housing is an advisory board to the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, created to assist the Commissioner in implementing sound policy and effectively addressing the Department's matters with regard to affordable housing. While it is currently comprised of many important members of the affordable housing industry, there are several other key stakeholders who are not represented on this board. In order to adequately serve our communities, it seems that it would be helpful to expand the Council's membership to include others in a position to offer further meaningful guidance.

Established in 2012, the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing is charged with assessing the housing needs of low-income individuals and families, evaluating current Department practices in adequately responding to those needs, identifying obstacles to the delivery of Department services, and making recommendations to the Commissioner on the Department's means of increasing access to safe and affordable housing across Connecticut. While the Council's creation last year speaks to the State's commitment to provide affordable housing within our communities, the addition of knowledgeable parties with relevant perspectives could only lead to a better result.

Allowing for input from housing authorities, builders, for-profit and not-for-profit owners and managers, mortgage lenders, and realtors would ensure that policies surrounding affordable housing matters are thoroughly examined from all angles. If enacted, SB 338 will give a voice on the Council to these individuals and their expertise, and will better provide for well-informed Department decisions.

Thank you again for the opportunity. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 338.