

Honorable Senators and Representatives,

My name is Roberta Bing, I am a graduate student at the University of Connecticut's School of Social Work. For part of my course work, I am required to testify at a public hearing, and as I am currently completing the field placement portion of my graduate studies at the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, I chose to speak to you today.

I am here to testify on Bill No. 6574, "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE." I am for this legislation and I hope that you will support it. My reasons for being in favor of this legislation are as follows:

1. It is a HUD requirement that all communities that receive HUD funding analyze the impediments to fair housing.
 - According to HUD's website (http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/promotingfh): "Under the Consolidated Plan, HUD funded recipients are required to: (1) examine and attempt to alleviate housing discrimination within their jurisdiction; (2) promote fair housing choice for all persons; (3) provide opportunities for all persons to reside in any given housing development, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin; (4) promote housing that is accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities; (5) and comply with the non-discrimination requirements of the Fair Housing Act."

2. Other states have already done these analyses, and created action plans to address the issues that have been found.
 - According to the Fair Housing Choice publication that was put out by HUD (<http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/images/fhpg.pdf>) the following states have already begun this work:
 - Pennsylvania, Utah, Indiana and Montana

3. There is a need for laws to be put in place to protect certain groups in Connecticut (The following is taken from: (<http://www.ctfairhousing.org/newsletters-and-publications/>))

Protected Classes	Federal or CT. Law	Property not covered	Remedy
Race	Federal: 42 U.S.C. §1982 (Civil Rights Act of 1866)	None	Federal court
	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-58a	None	State court or CHRO
Race, Color, National Origin, Ancestry, Sex, Religion	Federal: 42 U.S.C. §3604	Federal: Owner occupied bldgs. with 4 units or less; single family homes	Federal court or HUD
	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-64c	State: Owner occupied bldgs. with 2 units or less; owner occupied rooming house	State court or CHRO

Familial Status or the presence of children	Federal: 42 U.S.C. §3604	Federal: Owner occupied bldgs. with 4 units or less; single family homes	Federal court or HUD
	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-64c	State: owner occupied 4 units or less; elderly housing	State court or CHRO
Disability	42 U.S.C. §3604	Federal: Owner occupied bldgs with 4 units or less; single family homes	Federal Court or HUD
	29 U.S.C. §794	Federal: All housing <u>not</u> receiving federal money	Federal court
	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-64c	State: Owner occupied bldgs. with 2 units or less; owner occupied rooming house	State court or CHRO
Marital Status (except an unmarried unrelated man and woman)	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-64c	State: Owner occupied bldgs. with 2 units or less; owner occupied rooming house	State court or CHRO
Sexual Orientation	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-81e	State: Owner occupied bldgs. with 4 units or less	State court or CHRO
Age (except minors)	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-64c	State: Owner occupied bldgs. with 2 units or less; owner occupied rooming house; elderly housing	State court or CHRO
Lawful source of income	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-64c	State: Owner occupied bldgs. with 2 units or less; owner occupied rooming house	State court or CHRO
Gender identity or expression	State: Con.Gen.Stat. 46a-64c	State: Owner occupied bldgs. with 2 units or less; owner occupied rooming house	State court or CHRO

• **ILLEGAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION -- A SUMMARY**

- It is illegal to refuse to rent or sell property, to discriminate in the terms or conditions of a rental or sale (for example, to charge different amounts), to steer, to discriminate in mortgage lending or other related practices, or to otherwise make housing unavailable because someone is a member of a protected class.
- All persons involved in any real estate transaction must make reasonable accommodations for persons with mental or physical handicaps.
- It is illegal, with some exceptions, to advertise in a discriminatory manner.

4. There are groups in Connecticut who are currently doing the work of analyzing the impediments to fair housing choice, including the Connecticut Fair Housing Center (<http://ctfairhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/CFHC-AffirmFurthGuideGranteesR2.pdf>), but as legislators, you are in the unique positions to protect those in our population that are in the most vulnerable positions by changing and creating legislation. For this reason the public would be best served to have you, the legislators, join in on the work that these fine people have done, and establish a task for to consider impediments to fair housing choice.

I understand that you are all very busy, so I'd like to conclude by thanking you for your time, and letting you know that I would be happy to answer any questions, if I can.