

Commissioner Prague and members of the commission, thank you for hearing me today. My name is Howard Saroff, I am Chairman of the Commission on Aging for the City of New Haven. On behalf of The Commission on Aging I want to take this opportunity to thank you Commissioner Prague and Governor Malloy for your leadership to restore the Rent Rebate Program.

I am here today not only as a recipient of the program but also to give testimony to all of those people who were ineligible to receive Rent Rebate last year (2013) due to the sunset policy instituted by the Governor. Before the cuts (2011) 4,906 people received rent rebate for a total of \$2,608,990. After the cut (2012) 4,250 people received rent rebate for a total of \$2,296,834. That was a drop of over 13% in the City of New Haven. I live in Bella Vista a senior housing development in New Haven. Last year there were over 40 people in Bella Vista alone that didn't receive the rebate due to the budget cuts.

I am here today to ask that the Rent Rebate program be reinstated to all of those people who were denied it last year. This increase will assist all low income seniors aged 65 and up and all those who are 100% totally disabled aged 18 thru 64 to receive this rebate. The people who will

benefit, struggle to pay their bills, put food on the table and pay medical bills. Those people look forward to those funds to meet their critical needs.

I am very grateful for your consideration for this proposal. I will now be glad to answer any questions you have.