

March 17, 2014

Dear Legislators,

I have lived in my house in the East Rock area for the past 33 years. I love New Haven—I was actually born here. Even though the city has undergone a renaissance in terms of shops and restaurants, the city's services to its taxpayers has deteriorated while its property taxes have nothing but skyrocketed, forcing many people out.

We need this fully funded pilot program, which would give some relief to the city's taxpayers. We benefit too many people who work in New Haven but chose not live in our city. Ask them why they don't live here, and at the top of the list is high property taxes! We have to care for the poor, while our friends in Woodbridge, Madison and Guilford do not. We have many non-profit organizations that do help the poor as well as the city service programs, but this doesn't help the taxpayers who must shoulder this burden.

My understanding is that currently New Haven residents pay \$50 million more in taxes than they should because of the cuts in the pilot program. Instead of a mill rate of 32, we pay 40. I compare this to friends who live in urban areas around the country and this is outrageous.

My husband is retired and I'm thinking of retiring in a couple of years. We would like to make New Haven our retirement community, but feel that the city and now the state government have abandoned us and don't care.

Please pass the full pilot so we homeowners in New Haven can stay here!

Thank you for listening.

Priscilla Kellert
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