



Evonne M. Klein
Commissioner

Department of Housing

Connecticut
still revolutionary

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGING 2/25/2014

Evonne Klein, Commissioner
Department of Housing

Senate Bill No. 175

**AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS IN PUBLIC
HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.**

Senator Ayala, Representative Serra and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding Senate Bill 175 – AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS IN PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

Senate Bill 175 requires the Department of Housing (DOH), within available appropriations, to conduct a study of the provision of emergency backup power at public housing for the elderly within the state and to report on the results of this study by January 1, 2015. As you recall, when a similar bill (S.B. 79) was considered last year, the OFA fiscal note stated it would cost approximately \$500,000 to implement. Because our agency does not have the estimated half million dollars in funding to conduct this study and this funding is not included in the Governor's recommended budget adjustments, we cannot support this proposal.

DOH understands that many elderly housing developments do not currently have emergency backup power, and those that do, may only have them for their community rooms. The Department encourages housing authorities to work with their municipal leaders to apply for Community Development Block Grant – Small Cities (CDBG) or Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funding for emergency power generators if there is a local need. Thank you for your time and consideration.