

***TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 2014***

*Eric Chatman, President-Executive Director
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Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Eric Chatman, President-Executive Director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). On behalf of CHFA, I am providing my comments on legislation before the Public Health Committee.

Raised Bill 256 An Act Concerning the Department of Developmental Services Revolving Loan Fund

The bill would allow the transfer of the administration of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). CHFA supports this legislation.

CHFA administers a similar Group Home Loan Program, providing permanent mortgage loans from Tax Exempt Bond (TEB) proceeds to private non-profits sponsor organizations developing community living arrangements (CLAs or group homes) for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Department provides mortgages loans from its Revolving Loan Fund to private non-profit sponsor organizations developing community-based residential facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities.

A comparison of the two programs demonstrates that they are nearly identical. CHFA and the Department agreed that economies could be achieved by utilizing CHFA's capabilities in financial operations and supports the Department's efforts to streamline the process and is willing to administer the Revolving Loan a Fund for the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to the Housing Committee.