

Testimony of Denise Lee Summers, Publicly-assisted
Housing Resident Network (PHRN) Board member, March 2, 2015,
before the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut Legislature

Good evening, Honorable Appropriations Committee members. My name is Denise Lee Summers. I am a member of the King Court Resident Council in East Hartford and a Board member of PHRN. I have been a special education paraprofessional for the Windsor Board of Education for 15 years. I love my students but I don't make a lot of money. I live at King Court in East Hartford. I am very grateful for the PILOT program. It makes my rent affordable with my income for a clean safe environment for me and my family.

I am here to ask you to please consider putting back the money for the PILOT program in the state budget. I am not the only one affected – about 10,000 other residents in Connecticut will be affected. Without PILOT, it is estimated that my rent and my neighbors' rents will increase by about 68% or about \$135 per month. I am pleading with you on behalf of King Court residents and the other 10,000 residents in Connecticut that will be facing drastic rent increases if PILOT is not restored to the state budget.

Where will we go if we can't pay the increase?