

To the Honorable Members of the Housing Committee,

I, Richard Colberg, support Bill #6133 and here is my reason why.

I have worked in the business of property management for over 25 years. For the last 22 years I have part owned and fully managed 18 rental units in Hamden, CT.

Over the years I have provided safe affordable housing to many residents of many different nationalities/races.

My rental application process over the years has run fairly smoothly until the summer of 2013 when a person who had looked at one of my units thought that I had turned him down because I "didn't want his nationality at the property" (Totally incorrect). A few weeks later I received a certified mail from the CT. Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities stating that I was under investigation, because of a HUD complaint, for discrimination. This notice I found very disturbing and incorrect.

Unfamiliar with the process of being accused of something that I had felt was not correct I hired an attorney to represent myself. The outcome of my case were 3 things, I had to provide a statement of apology (without admitting guilt), a financial amount to accuser and take a Fair Housing course.

I found the whole lengthy process of defending myself costly and time consuming without any cost reimbursement possibilities whether I was innocent or guilty of such. At the same time I realized that the accuser had none to little cost deterrents in making the accusation but had potential financial rewards for such.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend that all future accusations by anyone accusing a landlord of discrimination in CT. that first the landlord be given opportunity of taking a Fair Housing Course instead of being put through a lengthy one sided investigation process.

If I can be of any further assistance I can be reached at 203-804-5449 or [Colbergrc@att.net](mailto:Colbergrc@att.net). Thank for you for attention.

Sincerely,

Richard Colberg,  
Manager FS Properties, LLC