



Connecticut Chapter
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February 17, 2015, Housing Committee Public Hearing

Written Testimony submitted by John Rumberger, Vice President of Housing and Legislation On behalf of the membership of Conn-NAHRO

Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; its membership is comprised of Public Housing Authorities and other individuals and organizations involved in affordable housing.

Co-Chairmen Senator Winfield and Representative Butler and members of the Housing Committee

My name is John Rumberger; I am the Vice President of Housing and Legislation for Conn-NAHRO and also the Facilities Manager of the Middletown Housing Authority. As many of you are aware, Connecticut's Housing Authorities are confronted with continued issues of sustainability.

I am writing to comment on S.B. No 888 and H.B. No 6759

S.B. No. 888 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADEQUATE AND SAFE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND YOUNGER PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

--- We support the proposed bill and urge that funding be made available to conduct this study on behalf of our Elderly and Non Elderly Disabled residents. As this committee is aware, the Elderly and Non Elderly Disabled portfolio is on the brink of collapse. There is documentation going back well over 10 years on this very topic. Recent verbal testimony on February 3, 2015 spoke to this documentation and the dramatic decrease of elderly residents. The financial and social implications have been stated over and over regarding this issue and the effects on the viability of this resource to both populations. Thank you for proposing the study and we implore you to ensure that the necessary funding is available to perform it.

H.B. No. 6759 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LANDLORDS AND TENANTS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF BED BUG INFESTATIONS.

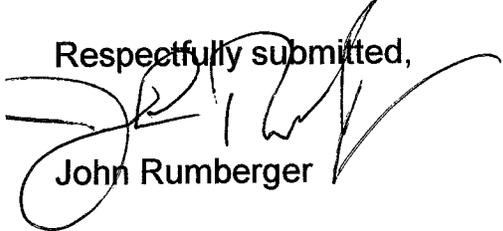
--- We support the proposed bill and ask the committee to consider the following change to Section 1 paragraph (5) "Qualified Inspector" to include Housing Authority Official in addition to those listed. We applaud the committee for recognizing the responsibilities of tenants in addition to those of the landlord. This bill, if enacted, will give greater guidance to the housing industry throughout the State. As you are aware, the financial strain on Housing Authorities threatens our very survival. Allowing the use of a Housing Authority Official to inspect lessens the financial impact of an inspection fee every time there is a report of infestation and allows us to initiate a rapport with the resident regarding treatment and possible sources of infestation.

February 17, 2015
CONN-NAHRO Testimony

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that CONN-NAHRO appreciates the many efforts of the Legislature to support our industry.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



John Rumberger