

Testimony on HB 5424

03/01/2016

Matthew George Kordek
35 Kelly Ann Court, Kensington, CT, 06037

Dear Chairmen Hartley and Perone, Ranking members Frantz and Camillo,

I am a Connecticut resident attending my senior year at Trinity College studying Political Science and I am working on an internship in the legislative program at the Legislative Office Building. I stand before you in strong support of HB 5424, an act concerning the implementation of the Live Here, Learn Here Program.

As a student who is facing graduation, I am faced with the decision of where I am going to live and work. Currently Connecticut is not the best option. I believe that the implementation of the Live Here Learn Here program will provide people in similar situations as myself, an incentive to stay within this state.

The implementation of the Live Here, Learn here program is critical to encouraging young people to stay within Connecticut after graduation. Many of my peers from my high school graduating class have moved to different states to buy homes, start new careers and establish lives for reasons of affordability.

Connecticut is not the most affordable place to live, and for recent higher education graduates, it is not a very attractive prospect financially to stay within Connecticut. There are states such as Massachusetts, New York, Colorado and North Carolina offering more job opportunities, and there are much more affordable areas to live in, with lower property taxes, income taxes, and costs of living.

However, having spoken to many college students who are approaching graduation about this matter, the Live Here, Learn Here program would give recent graduates more of a reason to stay in Connecticut. Requiring the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to implement this program would give incentive to young people, who already have family and friends in Connecticut, to stay in the state.

A program helping young people provide a down-payment on a home is one of the best and most sensible ways to attract young people to stay in this state. The bill has already passed, now it is time to require that it be implemented. This state needs to maintain a growing work force and provide young higher education graduates more of a reason to stay in Connecticut, and the implementation of the Live Here Learn Here program is an important step towards accomplishing this goal.