



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Tuesday March 1, 2016
Housing Committee
Public Hearing Testimony

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5395 & HOUSE BILL 5396

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Winfield, Representative Butler; Ranking Members Senator Hwang, Representative Kupchick; and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Christopher Davis, and I represent the 57th Assembly District, which includes East Windsor and Ellington. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 5395, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESSES THAT HIRE RECENT GRADUATES OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN CONNECTICUT, and House Bill 5396, AN ACT CREATING INCENTIVES FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TO LIVE IN URBAN AREAS.

These bills have the intention of encouraging young professionals to stay within our state and help foster the growth and vitality of essential urban centers. As you are aware, Connecticut is a very difficult state to begin a career and family due to the high costs of living and increasing costs of housing. With the addition of mounting student loan debt in recent years, finding housing that does not take more than 30% of your income after taxes and student loan payments can be extremely difficult in Connecticut. Being a young professional myself, I can testify to the daily struggles of young professionals in Connecticut to find affordable housing that meets the social and economic needs of our upcoming generations.

These proposals would make these urban areas more attractive to professionals that may be new to the workforce while also creating an incentive for developers to redevelop our stagnant housing markets in our state's cities. As more and more young professionals leave our state, thus leaving behind a very bleak economic future for Connecticut, this proposal could be a way to incentivize these individuals and families to invest in Connecticut's future while positively impacting economic growth for years to come.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 5395 and House Bill 5396.