



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
GENERAL BONDING SUB COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE, & BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 3, 2016

Senator Flexer, Representative Hennessy, Senator Martin, Representative Yaccarino, and distinguished members of the Veteran's Affairs Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 5413, **An Act Concerning Housing For Veterans And Active Duty Military Personnel.**

Our veterans have fought for us overseas and have made huge sacrifices. They should not have to fight to get affordable housing when they return to Connecticut.

For those who have served in the military and are returning from active duty with disabilities, affordable housing provides the connection they need to reintegrate into life back home.

As you may know, I hail from Danbury, where we are quite proud of our successful "Housing for Heroes" program which we launched in 2008. The program provides shelter, transitional housing, and a path to a permanent home. What a positive difference it makes in the life of a veteran to get that housing, as it puts them on that path to permanency and stability.

Our state has done a commendable job in recent years addressing chronic veteran homelessness. This legislation would be a welcome addition to our objectives of ensuring that no veteran returning to Connecticut will be without home to return to.

I would suggest, however, going even further and providing preference to veterans who apply to state programs for affordable or subsidized housing.

The legislation, as it is currently written, calls for the Commissioners of Housing and Veterans' Affairs to study programs and services in our state that are dedicated to assisting veterans and active duty members in finding permanent housing. After they study the programs, they are to make recommendations to the agencies in allocating available resources for veteran housing.

The addition of providing preference to veterans who apply to these state programs would help solidify the main objective of this legislation.

Our veterans and active duty service members have earned the right to have a safe affordable roof over their heads when they return home.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. McLachlan".

Michael A. McLachlan
State Senator - 24th District