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**State of Connecticut**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL**

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**MEMBER**  
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**Tuesday, February 23, 2016  
Housing Committee  
Public Hearing Testimony**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 150**

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Winfield, Representative Butler; Ranking Members Senator Hwang, Representative Kupchick; and esteemed members of the Housing Committee,

My name is Tim Ackert and I Represent the 8<sup>th</sup> District which includes Columbia, Coventry, Vernon and Tolland. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak on Senate Bill 150.

**AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATED HANDICAP DOORS FOR ELDERLY HOUSING COMPLEXES**

I am asking that a housing authority of any municipality be required to install at least one door that is automatically activated at each elderly housing complex maintained by such authority. This requirement should be specifically for access to community or shared space rooms. The purpose of such a requirement is to grant access to necessary spaces to all persons residing in an elderly housing complex, regardless of their physical limitations. I can only imagine the difficulty some residents have trying to stay mobile and independent while being confined to a walker or wheelchair. Residents who are limited in mobility already have a harder time doing day to day tasks like picking up the mail or doing their laundry. One way we can assist these residents is to require a power-assisted door, thereby eliminating one additional obstacle they face on a regular basis.

Thank you for the opportunity so speak on behalf of this bill.

Tim Ackert