

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**SUPPORT FOR SB 428, ACT CONCERNING FUNDING OF LEGAL SERVICES**  
**MARCH 16, 2016**

My name is Peter Adorno, and I live in Waterbury, CT. I am here in support of SB 428, Act Concerning Funding of Legal Services.

A couple of years ago, I applied for elderly housing in Waterbury. At the time, I was living in a private apartment. Unfortunately, housing is very expensive, and I am on a fixed income. So, I wanted to move into elderly housing because it was going to be much more affordable for me.

When I finally moved up the waiting list, the management company did a background check. However, the management company told me that, according to the report, I was convicted in 1999 for committing a felony in Rhode Island for stealing goods. But, it was not true. I was afraid I was going to be denied admission.

So, I contacted CT Legal Services in Waterbury. One of their attorneys helped me. He contacted the Office of the Attorney General in Rhode Island, Bureau of Criminal Identification. I provided them with copies of my driver's license and my social security card. After the Office of the Attorney General researched it and confirmed that I had no criminal record, they sent me a notarized letter. It stated that I had no criminal record in Rhode Island. After getting that letter, I was able to move into my new affordable elderly housing apartment. Without CT Legal Services' help, I might not have been accepted.

Also, the waiting list for elderly housing can be too long. When I was finally accepted, I was in the middle of my one year written lease. I was afraid that if I moved into my new apartment, the old landlord might sue me for breaking my lease. My attorney at CT Legal Services told me that there is a special law that protects elders, like myself, who are accepted into elderly subsidized housing. If I give my landlord 30 days written notice before I move, I am allowed to terminate my lease before it ends. So, I notified my landlord that I would be moving into elderly housing. Knowing about this law was a big help and relieved a lot of anxiety.

Please support SB 428. Elderly people need lawyers who can help them when they have a legal problem.

Thank you.