



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5740 **Housing Committee** **February 7, 2017**

Chairman Butler, Chairwoman Slossberg, Chairman Hwang, Ranking Member e Kupchick and distinguished members of the Housing Committee. I would to thank the Committee for raising **House Bill Number 5740: AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TO LIVE IN URBAN AREAS.**

This bill would allow for General Statutes to be amended and create an incentive program that encourages young professionals to live in urban areas of the state. As the committee may recall, I have partnered with Rep. Arce for a number of years to help pass a similar program, and I would like to thank the committee for its past support of the initiative.

I support this concept because the program would give our state's millennial population a chance to establish roots here in Connecticut while helping move our state's urban centers forward. It is most definitely in our state's best interest to help stem the ongoing and well-established "brain drain" from our state, and I believe a program such as this may help in this regard. Providing incentives for this specific population group will not only keep residents in this age range in our beloved state, but also could encourage young professionals from other states to move to Connecticut and experience the growth of our urban areas themselves, leading to a more vibrant community and economy.

In economic terms, this incentive plan will have a broad and profound impact for our state. An increase in this targeted population will allow for a larger tax base with additional "disposable" income, which will help decrease costs for all our state's residents. The increase will also help bring new businesses and keep current ones open while discouraging them from leaving our state.

I ask for the Housing Committee's continued support to pass Raised Bill Number 5740 to create an incentive program to encourage young professionals to live in our state's urban areas.