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From: brynn hickey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2019 8:01 AM
To: HSGTestimony
Subject: Testimony for tenant background check

I'm a registered voter in Montville and have been a landlord for ten years. I work in human services as an advocate and often help people with records find housing. I have experience from both sides of the table.

As a landlord, each time I turn over a unit I must do my due diligence to ensure a tenant will have the finances to pay the rent. If tenants are not paying other bills they probably will not pay rent at some point. The same goes for background checks not only am I concerned about my unit but also adjacent units and neighbors. I'm careful not to place a sex offender or someone with a drug charge near a school or high population of children. We should not be left making decisions with missing info. Landlords have little recourse when someone is selling drugs out of our units. Eviction is expensive. Many of us are just regular CT citizens working full time jobs trying to prepare for our futures. For some of us this is our retirement. No one would force us to invest in a certain stock for our 401k and neither should they put us in a position to rent to everyone regardless of their history.

As an advocate I understand how challenging it is to find housing. I work with people living on \$1,000 a month who can't get low income housing because of drug charges. I have a consumer who is deaf, has multiple charges and is about to lose his housing due to a lay off and reduction of hours from another. This will effect employment and he literally be on the streets because the homeless shelter will not take someone with his particular charges.

While I understand the housing struggles of people with backgrounds, as a landlord I want to have all the information about a potential tenant before I make decisions about housing them.

Thank you

Brynn Hickey