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CENTER FOR HEALTH,
EQUITY, AND JUSTICE

**Testimony of Susan Reynolds, member of the Katal Center for Health,
Equity and Justice
In support of HB 5713, An Act Concerning Inquiries About the Criminal
Convictions of a Prospective Tenant
Housing Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly
February 7, 2019**

Good morning members of the Housing Committee. My name is Susan Reynolds, and I'm a member of the Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice. I support proposed HB 5713, but would recommend that section (2) is removed from the bill. Section 2 states that "the landlord's inquiry is limited to criminal convictions that occurred during the seven-year period immediately preceding the landlord's offer of housing or conditional offer of housing." For the following reasons:

1. This would increase the landlord's ability to deny the prospective tenant housing. The denied housing then increases the tenant's possibility of homelessness-draining more resources from already overtaxed shelters.
2. This section also increases the likely hood of re-incarceration.
3. This section would also keep families separated in the case of minor children in the custody of DCF Foster care from being reunited with their custodial parent.

We can't continue to write laws that setup formerly incarcerated people to fail. In short, I support HB 5713, but would prefer if the changes I stated were made.

Thank you.