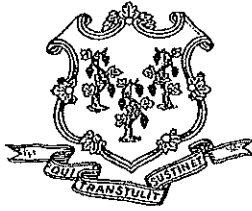


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February 7, 2019

Good afternoon Senator Bradley, Representative McGee and members of the Housing Committee. I would like to offer my support for SB 54, AN ACT CONCERNING A LANDLORD'S ABILITY TO REVIEW CRIMINAL RECORDS RELATING TO A PROSPECTIVE TENANT.

Among the many challenges faced by formerly incarcerated persons is the inability to find appropriate housing. The Commission on Equity and Opportunity released a report last month with recommendations to address this issue. The recommendations included "Ban the Box" for housing which would prevent property owners from looking at criminal records that are more than seven years old when considering whether to rent to a tenant and "Clean Slate" legislation which would seal the records on many convictions after a person was crime free for seven years. Both of these proposals would assist Connecticut residents who have been incarcerated and are working to become productive members of society. Eliminating barriers for formerly incarcerated persons serves not only the interest of those persons but also the interest of society. Thank you for hearing this important bill.