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State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATE REPUBLICAN WHIP

RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION &
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Testimony of Sen. Rob Sampson
Housing Committee
February 7, 2019

**Raised Senate Bill No. 54: AN ACT CONCERNING A LANDLORD'S ABILITY TO REVIEW
CRIMINAL RECORDS RELATING TO A PROSPECTIVE TENANT**

**Raised House Bill No. 5713: AN ACT CONCERNING INQUIRIES ABOUT THE CRIMINAL
CONVICTIONS OF A PROSPECTIVE TENANT**

Sen. Bradley, Rep. McGee, Sen. Hwang, Rep. Dauphinais, and members of the Housing Committee,

I write to you today to discuss my opposition to Senate Bill No. 54 and House Bill No. 5713. Senate Bill No. 54 would limit the criminal records look-back period and House Bill No. 5713 would go as far as to stop a landlord from inquiring about a criminal record at all. Both of these bills would be detrimental to a landlord's rights and potentially cause a dangerous situation for those other tenants who have to live in the same building. The State should not be involving itself in a private contract between a landlord and a tenant. The landlord should have the right to decide who they wish to have live in their property and if we take away their ability to check the backgrounds of their prospective tenants, then I truly believe we are infringing on the rights of a private property owner and paving the way for a dangerous environment to grow. I respectfully ask that this committee take a long look at the potential downsides of enacting these measures and stop both of these bills from moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sampson".

State Senator Rob Sampson

16th Senate District