



CONNECTICUT  
LEGAL  
RIGHTS  
PROJECT, INC.

TESTIMONY OF KATHLEEN FLAHERTY, ESQ.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CT LEGAL RIGHTS PROJECT, INC.  
AGING COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING  
FEBRUARY 9, 20201

**In support of: Raised Bill HB 6354, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**

Senator Slap, Representative Phipps, Senator Kelly, Representative Wilson and distinguished members of the Aging Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is Kathy Flaherty and I am the Executive Director of Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP), a statewide non-profit agency that provides legal services to low income adults with serious mental health conditions. CLRP was established in 1990 pursuant to a Consent Order that mandated that the state provide funding for CLRP to protect the civil rights of DMHAS clients who are hospitalized, as well as those clients who are living in the community.

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I appreciate the Aging Committee raising this bill, and I urge you to vote favorably and send this to the floor. Renters who are seniors or are disabled should not have to ask their landlords to notarize a landlord verification again if they have previously submitted a notarized verification from that landlord for the same address, the tenant has not moved, and there has been no change in ownership.

No doubt, this proposed change comes in the middle of a global pandemic where meeting in person to exchange documents poses a risk of virus transmission; however, it makes sense administratively. While there have been adjustments to the notarization process under the Governor's executive orders, it is highly unlikely that small landlords have the technology to comply with those

adjustments. Eliminating the requirement of yearly submission of notarized documents when the tenant has not moved makes the application process easier for all concerned.