

Statement of William Cibes concerning H.B. 6521
Housing Committee public hearing – March 4, 2021

My name is William Cibes. As a State Representative from the 39th District, I was privileged to advocate for the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Act in 1989, which created Section 8-30g of the General Statutes. As House Chair of the Finance Committee that year, I was privileged to be able to facilitate its adoption. As Chair of the Steering Committee of HOMEConnecticut in 2007, I was privileged to support the enactment of the Incentive Housing Zone legislation in 2007.

Throughout my career as a public official and a public policy advocate, I have consistently sought ways to eliminate exclusionary zoning, whether de jure or de facto, and to make available to all Connecticut residents, regardless of income, housing that they can afford in locations that enable them to have access to jobs and their children to have access to a quality education. So I continue to support Section 8-30g and oppose any attempts to weaken it. The continued existence of the core of this act is essential to increasing the supply of affordable housing in Connecticut.

Unfortunately, for reasons spelled out in the detailed testimony of Atty. Raphael Podolsky concerning HB 6521, the bill – while purporting only to encourage the creation of ADUs – goes much farther and undercuts the effective working of Section 8-30g. I support Attorney Podolsky's analysis.

Accordingly, I urge you to take no action on this bill.