

March 3, 2021

Testimony in support of HB 6529, An Act Concerning Housing Authorities and Establishing an Office of the Housing Advocate

Housing Committee Chairs and distinguished members:

I am writing in support of HB 6529, An Act Concerning Housing Authorities and Establishing an Office of the Housing Advocate.

As a member of the town of Windsor, I have become very familiar with the importance of an effective housing authority. In the past year we have become aware of numerous tenant issues that have yet to be satisfactorily addressed. Many of these concerns raise questions regarding the intentions of some of the housing authority staff and whose interests are being served. The bill HB 6529 would help to remedy some of these issues, through consistent training of staff and through education of tenants as to their rights.

These are vulnerable residents. It makes sense to take extra precautions to make sure their needs are being met with kindness and compassion. Ensuring that they have protection from individuals who prey on these communities is our responsibility as neighbors. Background checks for the most serious crimes could help to prevent someone from taking advantage of this population.

Thank you for considering these concerns and for your support of HB 6529.

Susan Miller

130 Palisado Ave

Windsor, CT 06095