



**Testimony of Erin Kemple  
In OPPOSITION to S.B. 354, H.B. 5683, H.B. 5686, 6437**

Senator Lopes, Representative McGee, Sen. Cicarella, and Rep. Polletta, distinguished members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Erin Kemple. I am the Executive Director at Connecticut Fair Housing Center. We wish to express our support for certain bills and opposition to others on the 2/18/2021 agenda:

**Oppose:**

**S.B. 354, AAC Rental Assistance Payments**—This bill is unnecessary in that it reflects current practice. This bill also contravenes [federal law](#) because the upcoming federal rental relief funds can be paid to tenants if their landlord refuses to participate in rent relief programs.

**H.B. 5683, AAC Affordable Housing**—In addition to reducing the jobs tied to the construction of new affordable housing, this bill would inappropriately allow properties that need considerable repairs or rehabilitation to count as “affordable housing” under 8-30g.

**H.B. 5686, AAC COVID-19 Related Protections for Landlords and Tenants**--[Studies](#) have shown a [direct link between weakening or lifting eviction moratoria](#) and [increased infection and death](#) from COVID-19. By weakening the eviction moratorium, this bill would cost lives.

**H.B. 6437, AAC Requiring Landlords to Notify Tenants of Foreclosure Proceedings**—Only 20% of foreclosure cases filed end in a judgment that transfers the property to the lender. We worry this bill would dissuade some tenants from paying rent they could otherwise afford, and increase otherwise avoidable foreclosures.

Thank you for your attention and interest in these important matters. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-247-4400, ext. 763 should you wish to discuss any of the above.