

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED BILLS TO ENABLE MORE DIVERSE HOUSING
IN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITIES.

Bills: [S.B. 1024](#), and [H.B. 6107](#), [H.B. 6611](#), [H.B. 6112](#), [H.B. 6613](#), [S.B. 1026](#), [S.B. 1027](#), [H.B. 6107](#)

Planning and Development Committee
March 15, 2021

I am Amy Ewing of Stamford, CT. These views are my own.

The need for more diverse housing in Connecticut must be addressed, and I think the proposed bills are a sorely-needed step in the right direction.

I received an email from the Senate Republican leadership which stated that the proposed bills do not consider “the unique needs and geography of each community (including cities, suburbs, and rural areas).”

However, as I understand our history, in the past when each community has been on its own to develop more diverse and more affordable housing, there has been little positive change. I have heard that “not in my backyard” (NIMBY) sentiments have led to creative work-arounds that have yielded little additional affordable housing stock – nothing that comes anywhere near to what is needed.

(Meanwhile I also understand that while there are Federal programs, like Section 8, they are woefully underfunded compared to the need. A few years ago one waiting list in Stamford opened up and received something like 20,000 requests competing for 500 slots... and after a year only 10 or so slots had been funded.)

I think the new norm has to be greater variety of housing – affordable housing. If it is enabled by State enactment of zoning changes, so be it.

State control of some of some zoning regulations would help put communities on an equal footing as they each provide additional affordable housing. If all communities have to provide more diverse housing – especially near public transportation hubs – inclusiveness becomes the new norm and no community's real estate is disproportionately disadvantaged.

I understand that the proposed bills – Bills: [S.B. 1024](#), and [H.B. 6107](#), [H.B. 6611](#), [H.B. 6112](#), [H.B. 6613](#), [S.B. 1026](#), [S.B. 1027](#), [H.B. 6107](#) – are our State's best response to this housing need. I therefore support them and ask you to do the same.

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