

Testimony in support of:
H.B. No. 6611, H.B. No. 6613, S.B. No. 1024, S.B. No. 1026, and H.B. No. 6107

Dear Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairman Needleman, Vice Chairwoman Goupil, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and Distinguished Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Joint Planning and Development Committee:

I am glad to see that you are considering several bills designed to address Connecticut's statewide housing issues during this legislative session. Our current housing stock does not meet the needs of the people who want to live and work here, it perpetuates segregation that was caused by racist laws that are no longer on the books but that haunt every aspect of our society, and it stifles the economic recovery that our state so desperately needs. Smart legislation can tackle these interrelated problems.

While multiple tactics are needed, I would like to call special attention to HB 6611. Fair Share Zoning sets some "rules of the road" but **largely leaves the development of planning and zoning up to towns**, as long as their efforts are working to generate housing that contributes to meeting the regional need for affordable housing.

Modeled after successful legislation in New Jersey and informed by Raj Chetty's research on economic opportunity, this bill has the potential to generate:

- 300,000 units of sorely needed market rate and affordable units over 10 years
- 80,000 jobs (full time equivalents sustained for ten years)
- \$12.2 Billion in state and local tax revenue
- \$59.1 Billion in income for Connecticut residents

Fair Share Housing is not only the right thing to do to address Connecticut's affordable housing and housing segregation crises, it is also the smart thing to do to boost our economy overall, especially as we emerge from a global health pandemic.

Sincerely,
Makaela Kingsley
Hamden, CT (Spring Glen Neighborhood)