



Legislative Testimony
765 Asylum Avenue, First Floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-523-9146
www.acluct.org

Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 964, An Act Requiring a Study of the Accessibility of the State Capitol Building, Legislative Office Building and Related Facilities

Senator Cassano, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Ranking Members Hwang and Zullo, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

My name is Kelly McConney Moore, and I am the interim senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 964, An Act Requiring a Study of the Accessibility of the State Capitol Building, Legislative Office Building and Related Facilities.

The ACLU-CT strives for a country free of discrimination against people with disabilities. People with disabilities belong everywhere, including and especially in places where power sits and decisions are being made. We are committed to ending forms of discrimination that make physical spaces, technology, and information inaccessible to people with disabilities – especially when failure to create accessibility impacts the ability to participate in the democratic process.

The Capitol and Legislative Office Building are the literal seats of legislative power in Connecticut. Decisions are made there every day during legislative sessions that affect people's lives. We believe that no decisions should be made about vulnerable communities without those communities' input. If governmental buildings are inaccessible to people with disabilities, though, they are unjustly shut out of the process with little recourse. This is unacceptable.

Accordingly, we support the efforts of Senate Bill 964 to understand the barriers to accessibility that exist right now in the legislature and eliminate them. We encourage this Committee to work with disabled people and advocates for the disability community to ensure they have a voice in selecting the auditor and weighing on results of the assessment. With those changes, we encourage this Committee to support Senate Bill 964, as well.