

Name: Helen Schaefer

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: HB05242 - AAC THE COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL RECORDS ON HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES.

Opposes

Testimony:

I am a disabled, 71 year old single woman. I have enjoyed living at Canal Crossing for the past three years, and would love to remain a resident here for the rest of my life. My favorite aspects of life here is that I am able to walk my little dog and feel safe. I take her out for walks all over the property both in the day and in the night, including after dark. I always feel safe. Canal Crossing is a “semi gated community”. The gates are used after 6:30 pm till early morning.

I have lived in CT since 1981 and been a home owner for most of those years. Aging has made me appreciate the conveniences of being a renter.

I also appreciate the comfort and security of living in this community. There are pros and cons to sharing walls, ceilings and floors with ones neighbors. I refer to it as ‘communal living’, as we can hear each others comings and goings and are able to “keep an eye out” for each other. Having maintenance and security included as part of my rent is a benefit.

I am alarmed and distressed to read the proposed bill by the Housing Committee which will be presented to the public. From the property owners perspective, in order to provide and protect their tenants, they need to have the option to screen who will live in the units. When reviewing a potential tenant’s records, landlords ought to be able to consider prior convictions, as well as the likelihood of repeat offenses.

I back funding for transitional supports for individuals exiting incarceration who have committed violent and dangerous crimes including arson, stalking, robbery. Rehabilitation is not the same as incarceration.

This is a diverse community. We have residents who have a range of income. Many residents are from a lot of other countries giving it an international flavor. Our community consists of resident without regard to their religion, race, creed, gender, gender identity sexual orientation, disability, age.

Lastly, there exists a huge shortage of quality rental units in CT. This proposal will cause an increase burden on land lords, resulting in higher rent passed on to tenants and fewer quality safe places for renters to reside.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Schaefer