

Testimony

Senator Marilyn Moore

And Members of the Housing Committee

Proposed **Bill-HBO5242**

Tuesday 11AM February 27<sup>th</sup>

Room 2B

**IN OPPOSITION**

February 26, 2024

Good morning, my name is April R. Conquest, I work at Vesta Corporation and I'm a member of CTAA (Connecticut Apartment Association). I have been providing housing for over 20 years. I have housed thousands of people from many levels of society.

This bill that you have proposed I think is **HARMFUL LEGISLATION**. The idea of housing convicted criminals in my community is a scary thing to say the least for me. This will leave my community with no recourse to stop arsonist, stalkers, rapists, breaking and entering criminals from living in my community. I know that this will cause me to lose control of my community, as I will not have a say as to who I let live in my community. For the protection and safety of my residents I think the passing of this bill will be very harmful. This bill does nothing to address the housing crisis in CT.

My residents do not want those with violent criminal histories living in their buildings. My residents are my priority, and their safety means a lot to me. I think if we build more transitional housing or supportive housing facilities for those re-entering society that would be the safest way to house those re-entering society.

This bill will allow victims of domestic violence or stalking to have to live next door to their abuser or stalker. Let it be known that 79% of these criminals are re-arrested within 5 years, 69% are convicted of a new crime within 5 years and 50% return to prison or violate terms of probation. So, you will see this is why I oppose this bill, it is for the safety of my community and all those involved.