

Testimony of Kristal Kallenberg in Support of S.B. 752, An Act Concerning Housing Segregation
Tuesday, February 28th, 2017

Thank you Chairs and Members of the Housing Committee for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Kristal Kallenberg. I am an ordinary citizen and a resident of West Hartford.

I am testifying today in support of S.B. 752, An Act Concerning Housing Segregation.

I hope it is obvious to all of our law makers that segregation is bad for Connecticut. Connecticut is one of the most racially and economically segregated states in the country. Connecticut also has a significant achievement gap that is intertwined with segregation.

Despite past efforts to desegregate, people of color continue to be concentrated in areas of the state that are struggling. Historic and existing policies have and continue to shape our state, including exclusionary zoning, racial covenants, redlining, and other policies. Research has shown that where you live strongly influences your chances of success, including health, school achievement, long-term success, well-being and chances for upward mobility..We need to invest in revitalizing struggling communities

While I would describe my town, West Hartford as a thriving community, I want more affordable housing in my town, We also need to consciously work to generate the housing choices in thriving communities that have been denied to many low income families of color for decades.

Looking beyond my town, I want equal opportunity for all citizens of my State, but we are up against an impossible challenge if government policies don't actively work to ensure that every town takes on its fair share of affordable housing.

I am so proud of my State for leading the nation on so many social justice issues. I also want Connecticut to be a leader in fair housing policy.

I believe that the measures outlined in S.B. 752 would bring us closer to that possibility. I passionately urge you to get behind this Bill. Thank you!