

Claire Morduch

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Testimony to the Housing Committee on Feb. 28, 2017
by Claire Morduch, Guilford resident
In support of S.B. No. 752

Rep. Butler, Sen. Slossberg, Sen.Hwang, Honorable Committee Members,

As a nonprofit consultant, working in the field of community development and community development finance, and a Guilford resident, I fully support Senate Bill 752. It is an important step in ensuring that there is a fair share of affordable housing in every town in the state and that there are the information and resources to have full transparency and involvement in the planning process. I believe that Connecticut should facilitate the production of additional affordable housing in higher opportunity areas, such as Guilford, along with related resources including access to quality education, transportation, services and employment.

Specifically, I support:

- The increased publication of data on housing production as it is important to have a detailed, complete and definitive resource from which to develop an understanding of where the need exists and the ways in which it might be best met,
- Developing future projections of demographic shifts and needs for affordable housing at the local, regional and state levels as a resource for planning,
- Regional planning that involves a variety of stakeholders to assess the projected needs of affordable housing, and access to transportation, education, services for low/moderate income populations, as is required for other public planning processes,
- Regional planning to address those needs across a region, not limiting affordable housing solely to the urban areas,
- Transparency about decision-making and investment regarding the placement of affordable housing and greater information about its availability and ability to meet various needs of low/moderate income populations, including education, employment, accessibility and transportation, and
- Increasing funding for counseling for individuals and families to better understand their options in a variety of locations throughout the state, particularly those in higher opportunity areas.

I support all of these points as together they add to the knowledge for low/moderate income people and for planning by those municipalities, agencies and individuals which support them.

In addition, in my work as an underwriter for a community development finance institution serving people with disabilities, I see the need to locate appropriate, accessible and affordable housing in all types of communities, not just in urban centers.

Thank you for your consideration.