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S.B. 752 – AAC Housing Segregation **Housing Committee public hearing – February 28, 2017** **Testimony of Raphael L. Podolsky**

Recommended Committee action: APPROVAL OF THE BILL

In 1991, P.A. 91-362 explicitly imposed on DOH and CHFA “an affirmative duty to promote fair housing in each development that is assisted or supervised under any provision of this title [Title 8].” See C.G.S. 8-37ee. That law also required reporting of those agencies’ efforts and results “in promoting fair housing choice and racial and economic integration.” See C.G.S. 8-37bb. Connecticut, however, continues to suffer a high degree of racial separation in housing. S.B. 752 attempts to give greater substance to these quarter-century-old requirements and to bring them closer to fruition. In particular, the bill includes provisions that:

- * Broaden the duty to promote fair housing to all agencies involved in the delivery of affordable housing;
- * Require detailed measuring of degree of success in meeting duty;
- * Expand reporting requirements;
- * Create a process for allocating a “fair share” of regional housing need to each town;
- * Require town plans of conservation and development to include regional goals and the steps to overcome barriers within ten years;
- * Require internet posting of agency affirmative fair housing marketing plans;
- * Require exclusive marketing to least-likely-to-apply households if not reflected in the occupancy of the development;
- * Allow housing authorities to exercise powers in opportunity areas within 30 miles of the town;
- * Require DOH to allocate at least 60% of administrative fees from HUD to a mobile housing counseling program.

Taken as a whole, the bill represents a much more robust approach to making our housing less segregated. We support the bill.