

Dear Reps. McGee and Smith, Sens. Lopes and Anwar, and members of the Housing Committee:

My name is D.K. I am a resident of Fairfield. I am testifying in support of Connecticut H.B. 6531 - An Act Concerning the Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings.

This information about my experience with Bridgeport Housing Court is to bring awareness to the negative impact the decision by the Court has on my overall existence. I'm currently enrolled in school for my last semester pursuing a degree in the allied health field. I am currently unemployed and only income is child support and alimony. I related my situation to the landlord's attorney and the judge who heard the case. Yet, despite my efforts to seek an extension to stay put until I'm finished with school, I am ordered to vacate the premises on 03/31/2021. Unfortunately for me if that happens my children and I have nowhere to go. We will become homeless, at a higher risk for Covid 19, and unable to achieve our much needed goals and objectives.

Prior to connecting with a few agencies, my efforts to represent myself in Court and find housing were futile. However, the agencies are faced with limited resources to represent clients in court. For me, lack of funds and lack of legal representation are the main reasons my children and I are in such a horrific position. I am appealing to State officials to take an urgent look into the negative impact Covid 19 pandemic is having on an infinite number of families. I am also appealing to State officials to provide adequate resources to relevant agencies in an effort to enhance their ability to assist negatively impacted families to access basic needs for survival.

Sincerely Yours,

DK

Fairfield, CT