

My name is Noah and I am a nonbinary person living with HIV who lives in New Haven.

I have faced problems with the property owners of my apartment, who had asked me to vacate during the deadly coronavirus pandemic. This put me in a situation where I was worried that I was facing potential homelessness. As a person who has faced homelessness in the past, I was triggered and had difficulty in understanding how to defend myself, and understanding that I don't have to be a victim in this case. Legal counsel assisted me in navigating my next responses to the landowner and protecting myself from immediate complications. It also encouraged me to resolve with landlord. I would say it has assisted me in navigating safely and properly with my land owners.

Having access to an attorney in cases with eviction or attempts from landowners to remove tenants will assist individuals in protecting themselves from any unfair and unnecessary marks on their record-which would increase bias from prospective homes they may move into. If we protect individuals from this imposition on their right to good housing, then we can make a lasting change for the better for the state of housing in Connecticut.

I think it is imperative that any person who may face housing issues with their landowners or managers  
Have access to a lawyer for counsel, advise and defense.

Covid-19 is a dangerous virus and individuals with HIV in CT are NOT on lists to get vaccinated earlier-as it the vaccine is being administrates in phases of age groups (as of this time). A Person like myself, who is 28 years old and not able to get vaccinated in the near future, is not comfortable with house showings, with moving in with new roommates, or able to pay for first month/utilities due to reduced pay and work because of coronavirus. I do not want to be homeless or be in any situation where I may be exposed to a deadly virus.

This is why I support the following bills

H.B. 6531 - An Act Concerning the Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings  
H.B. 6528 - An Act Concerning the Sealing of Eviction Records

Noah