

From: [Jennifer Zakrzewski](#)
To: [HSGTestimony](#)
Subject: H.B. 6531 - OPPOSE
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Dear Housing Committee -

The assault on landlords this session is astounding. Landlords in this state and across the country have endured the financial burdens of a pandemic and this legislative session seeks to drive the knife further into the heart of this aspect of the housing industry.

Now you want the taxpayers to shoulder the burden of providing legal counsel. When judiciary did the Civil Gideon Pilot Project, I saw the state bids of several hundred thousand for attorneys to represent people.

How about real solutions? A real solution would be doing what other states across the nation are doing - licensing non-attorneys to assist in cases like housing and family law. Ontario, Canada has been licensing paralegals to represent people and give advice in criminal, housing and small claims matters since 2010. States such as Washington and Utah have been licensing paralegals. Other states are close to or in the process of doing the same: Colorado, California, Arizona, Oregon, New Mexico, Iowa, North Carolina, Florida, and New York. In addition, additional Canadian provinces are following Ontario.

I oppose taxpayer dollars going to the funding of legal representation in this state. It is time to deregulate legal provider services so that there is a greater access to justice that is not thrust upon the backs of taxpayers.

Jen Zakrzewski