

Senator Lopes, Representative McGee, Ranking Members Polletta and Cicarella, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Mollie Hall and I am a student at Hall High School, and I live in West Hartford, Connecticut. I am writing to you today, representing the be homeful ambassadors. We are a statewide youth advocacy club committed to destigmatizing and ending homelessness in our state. We want to build a future where homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring for every family, youth, and individual across the state. Given housing insecurity and homelessness are associated with declines in physical and mental health barriers and barriers to employment, especially among children, a right to housing is essential. A right to housing will help consequently solve many already pressing legislative issues - a benefit we should not pass up. A right to shelter is not as stable, but a right to housing will allow families, especially children, a sense of stability to be most successful.