

Senator Lopes, Representative McGee, Ranking Members Polletta and Cicarella, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Cate Mancini 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.

Homelessness is something that can affect anyone. Over 45,000 Connecticut renters are likely to face eviction in the next two months, and over 110,000 are behind on rent. A change must be made. I urge for the establishment of housing initiatives such as providing counsel to those facing eviction and foreclosure, funding homelessness response systems, lessening the impact of criminal and eviction history on housing access, and ending exclusionary zoning.