

# Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5681

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITY REIMBURSEMENT AND

**Title:** EDUCATIONAL EQUITY.

**Vote Date:** 3/11/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/18/2021

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Jason Rojas, District 9

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Some towns in the state of Connecticut do not have a lot of affordable housing available. When offered incentives to build more affordable housing, some towns have complied and done so. This bill would provide another incentive for towns to do so.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

Executive Director of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities Tanya Hughes- **Supports** this bill in public testimony saying that it favored the concepts in the proposed bill and wanted to see the language.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

State Representative Jason Rojas- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying it will encourage towns to adopt more inclusive zoning practices through incentives and will not be a mandate on the towns.

Connecticut State Director Education Reform Now Connecticut Amy Dowell- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying it can make a long term impact on opportunity gaps in the nation, as well as demonstrate that Connecticut supports forward thinking communities that create opportunities for all working families and their children.

Executive Director Connecticut Council of Small Towns Betsy Gara- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying that promoting greater housing choice and economic diversity in communities to help address racial disparities is a critical public policy goal.

Policy Director of Partnership for Strong Communities Sean Ghio- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying the bill enables students from lower-income families to live in more communities with high-performing, allow many Connecticut towns to benefit from a more diverse community, and provide towns with well-documented economic gains of increased housing options.

Executive Director School and State Finance Project Lisa Hammersley- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying this bill provides an incentive for communities that have not historically invested in affordable housing to do so.

Executive Director for the Connecticut Association for Community Action Deb Polun- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying it will enhance the availability of affordable housing, which in turn, will promote opportunities for educational and life success for low-income people

Director of Policy, Research, and Government Relations for the Connecticut Education Association Ray Rossomando- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying it will offer innovative incentives toward promoting diverse affordable housing options.

Director Fairfield County's Center for Housing Opportunity Christie Stewart- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying this bill will enable students from lower-income families to live in more communities with high-performing schools, allow Connecticut towns to benefit from a more diverse community, and provide towns with well-documented economic gains of increased housing options.

President of Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Jay Williams- **Supports** this bill in written testimony saying this bill would enable students from lower-income families to have access to communities with higher-performing schools, create more diverse communities throughout the state, and create significant economic benefits for towns by diversifying housing options.

Catherine Giff -**Supports** this bill in written testimony saying it links educational and affordable housing opportunities which supports families so they can live in the towns their children go to school in.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

The following **Oppose** this bill saying it takes away control over planning and zoning from local municipalities:

Dr. Jeffrey Gordon-**Oppose**  
Michael Levin-**Oppose**  
Jackie Porco-**Oppose**  
Robert Schott-**Oppose**

**Reported by: Eddie Aledia**

**Date: 3/24/21**