

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-194

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RIGHT TO HOUSING.

Vote Date: 3/9/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2021

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Saud Anwar, District 3

REASONS FOR BILL:

In order to address the homeless population, this bill seeks to establish a right to housing by giving residents a right to protection from housing loss, safe and stable housing, affordable housing, rehousing, and recognition of special circumstances. A housing committee will be formed to ensure future policies work to ensure these rights, as well as review previous housing policies.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Meg Stellini, Fellow of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity- **supports** this bill in its goal to hold agencies accountable for crafting policies that address housing inequality. She believes that the state of Connecticut must work to provide housing opportunities to vulnerable residents.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Stacey Cote, Director of Operations at the Center for Children's Advocacy- **SUPPORTS** – stating that housing is a critical human need. By forcing the state to consider housing inequality and access in future policies, the bill "provides added impetus" for other policies that decrease homelessness.

Suzi Craig, Chief Strategy Officer at Mental Health Connecticut- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill identifies shortcomings in policies that prevent vulnerable people from gaining access to housing.

Kellyann Day, CEO of New Reach- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill begins a conversation about future policies. Connecticut lacks 87,000 units of housing for low-income residents, and SB 194 begins to address the inequity and injustice that this lack creates.

Sarah Fox, Director of Policy for the CT Coalition to End Homelessness- **SUPPORTS** – stating that there are 2,904 people experiencing homelessness in the state, despite being one of the wealthiest states in the country. Connecticut has the 10th highest housing costs in the country, in part due to a lack of affordable rental options.

Rachel Givens- **SUPPORTS** – stating the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected people experiencing homelessness. Statewide, nearly 124,000 renters give more than half their income to rent. SB 194 aids these impacted populations.

Aparajita Kaphe- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill is fiscally responsible. A person without a home costs the state \$33,000 a year, while a family without a home costs \$120,000 a year. By providing support, the state can limit these costs.

Kelly McConney Moore, Interim Senior Policy Counsel for the ACLU-CT- **SUPPORTS** – stating the establishment of a right to housing is a positive first step to address housing inequity, especially for BIPOC and justice-impacted persons. Formerly incarcerated individuals are ten times more likely to be homeless, while BIPOC people also face rates of homelessness that are higher than the general population. She also states she would like to see enforceable provisions to make housing "real and tangible for people who desperately need it."

Shanice Morris- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill would ensure policies that combat homelessness. She believes that no one should undergo trauma like homelessness. She also states that the committee formed by the bill should highlight BIPOC voices.

Raphael Podolsky, Attorney and Policy Advocate for Connecticut Legal Services- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill represents a positive step forward by creating a framework to guide future policy.

Gina Rosich, PhD, MSW, National Association of Social Workers- CT Chapter- **SUPPORTS** – stating housing insecurity is an economic issue. She disagrees that the bill is a slippery slope, but instead provides regulatory mechanisms to support the goal of affordable housing.

The following **support SB 194**, stating the legislation would support victims of domestic violence and children have access to safe housing options in the future:

Liza Andrews, Director of Public Policy & Communications at the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Caroline Beltre

Shana Hurley

Erin Sheehan- CT Voices for Children

The following people expressed **support for SB 194**, stating there is a moral commitment to a fundamental human right to housing. Housing is necessary for achieving a right to life and a pursuit of happiness:

Sherry Chen

Deborah L. Brody

Richard Cardoso

Theo Haaks

Margaret Middleton, Executive Director of Journey Home

Marianna Rodriguez, Program Director for Family Promise of Central CT

The following people expressed **support for SB 194**, highlighting the positive effects housing equality has on public health:

Loirraina Chen

Connecticut Fair Housing Center

Seema Doshi

Raymond Fang, Yale Law School Housing Clinic

Danya Keene- Associate Professor, Yale School of Public Health

Jennifer Paradis- Executive Director, Beth-El Center, Inc

Ann Sarnak, Yale Law School Housing Clinic

Mahira Tawina

Clarkin Upshaw-Clarkin

Mael Clarke-Martin

Aaron Clarke-Martin

Courtney Clarkin

Suzanna Brown- Co-Director of the Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project

Christian A. Clarkin

Elaine M. Louden

Lily Kofke

Sephanie Vazquez

Sunny Light

Jocelyn Dorney

Sreeja Kondeti

Zoe Novic

Leah Robinson

Alexandria Bode

Abigail Waugh

Victoria Isabel Quintanilla

Lakai Legg

Jaelen King

Diego Fernandez-Pages

Larissa Nguyen

Jad A. Elharake

Shamsa Kolb

Erica Lin

Nicole Sanchez Astumpuma

Chika Ogbejesi

Isaac Yearwood

Crystal Kong

Tess Buschmann

Dr. Carolyn Roberts

John Kolb

Naomi Knight

Megan Pinaire

Alexis Hopkins

Hui Yee Diong

Miranda Rector

Brooke Harris

Will DeMott

Anna Jennings

Tony Upshaw

Dottie Upsahw

Seema Doshi

Hannah Sproch

Rachel Givens

Mariah Chadukiewicz

Victoria Damore

Sarah Smith

Samara Johnson

Nancy H. Covell

David Ernst

Caroline Karabeinikoff

Laura Perrone

Shannon Hall

Caitlyn Malenfant

Megan Villanova

Margaret Blume

David Givens

Kailey Boisquet

Susan Hopkins

Claudette Kidd

Emma Lo, MD, Yale Hospital

Megan Corning

Iyanna Latimer

Keren Paquette

Madison Alexander

July Leon

Elaine Matt

Emma Heintz

Rev. David Horst, New London Homeless Hospitality Center

Amanda Sullivan

Allison D'Alusio

Greg Catalano

Lana Delsanta

Elnara Klicheva

Paulette Fox

Shannon Hall

Sarah Morey

Michelle Lipar

Julia Duguay

Kevin Sullivan

Sara Ofner-Seals

Roy D Givens

Laura Mutrie

Shannon O'Malley, MD

Doran Wright

Ben Fink

Brandi A. Kennedy

Sarah Abromley

Melissa Watts

Rachel Hennein

Marie-Claire Meadows

Haley Case

Rebecca Schwarz

Paige Farrenkopf

Caroline Magee

Matthew Benczkowski

Ramona Myers

Lana Delsanta

Courtney Doty

Cyrstal Ruiz

Eva Graf

Robert Howard

Serena Ly

Jessica lee

Alysia M. Mascolo

Deanna Deshpande, LMSW

Jaime Parker

Celina Fernandez-Ayala

Samuel Oguntoyinbo

Kathleen Malison

Kyndall Donalson

Taylor Tucker

Caroline Beltre

Jocelyn Theriault

David Gonzalez Rice, PhD

Dean Alexander

Lee Walsh, Community Engagement Specialist at the Columbus House, Inc.

Rebecca Shaw

David Morgan- President/CEO TEAM Inc

Kaylee Hale

Danielle Givens

Catherine Casey

Brianna Fenn

Emily Goodwin

Shannon Carter

Durel Crosby

Doran Wright- Pastor, Neighborhood Church Black Rock

The following people expressed **support for SB 194:**

Danielle Angelone

Tiernan Cabot

Richard Cardoso

Nicole Faria

Grace Furia

Hannah Ganey

Molly Hall

Jenna

Milena Leonidas

Megan Levan

Cate Mancini

Bridgett McGann

Molly

Matthew Morgan

Claire O'Brien

Maddie O'Toole

Maya Palanki

Olivia Pillow

Reed Schwartz, Policy Director for the Wesleyan Democrats

Lauren Shilansky

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The Connecticut Council of Municipalities- OPPOSES AS WRITTEN – stating that while they support the intent of the bill, they fear it is vaguely written. This lack of clarity could lead to unfunded mandates.

Rhonda Leonard- **OPPOSES** – stating agencies already exist to support housing rights, a new committee would be redundant. She believes the state should instead focus expanding affordable housing options in suburban communities.

Eric Rogers, CT Association of Real Estate Investors, CT Property Owners Alliance, CT Coalition of Property Owners- **OPPOSES AS WRITTEN** – stating that proposed housing committee does not provide enough representation for property holders and other stakeholders. Furthermore, he states that a right to housing should not override other, pre-existing rights.

Nawaz Shaikh- **OPPOSES** – stating that SB 194 would take away rights from landlords, as well as make it more difficult for property owners to create intergenerational wealth.

The following people expressed **opposition to SB 194**, stating that the bill would raise costs for landlords:

David Haberfield

Paul Januszewski, President of the Greater Enfield Landlord Association

The following people expressed **opposition to SB 194**, stating that it is biased against landlords in favor of tenants, and protects irresponsible renters:

Freeman and Co.

Marie Matta-Isona, Broker for iVision Real Estate

The following people expressed **opposition to SB 194**:

Charles

Tara Ramlal

Jacob Reily

Ana Ughetti

Leigh Zeeman- Realtor

Reported by: Gabriel Turco

Date: 3/17/21