

TESTIMONY OF PAMELA HELLER IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT FAIR HOUSING CENTER Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, and Distinguished Members of the

the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of continued funding for the Connecticut Fair Housing Center (“the Center”). My name is Pamela Heller, I am an employee of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center testifying on behalf of our client, Jane Doe. Ms. Doe, a resident of New Haven county, is a survivor of domestic violence and, therefore, cannot testify personally. She has reviewed and approved the following testimony, told from her perspective:

My name is Jane Doe, and I am a survivor of domestic violence. I am asking you to support the Governor’s request for funding for the Center. The Center assisted me when I was desperately searching for housing in order to secure a safe and habitable home for myself while I was expecting my first child. I found what seemed to be a perfect unit and attempted to move forward with the rental process only to be told that my baby would not be welcome there. I was devastated and confused by the discriminatory treatment I received. It also meant that I had to remain in an unsafe situation. When I discussed it with the agency assisting me in finding housing, they referred me to the Center. Luckily, I eventually found a place that welcomed families with children and babies.

The Center understood what I had experienced and explained that the conduct was illegal. With their assistance and representation, I was able to vindicate my rights and recover for the harm that I experienced. Their professionalism and dedication to ending discrimination provided me with much needed support and encouragement to stand up for my rights. Thank you for your support for the Center and please continue to support their good work.