

TESTIMONY OF ONYEKA OBIOCHA IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT FAIR HOUSING CENTER Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, and Distinguished Members of 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 Onyeka Obiocha, and I am a resident of New Haven, CT.

I am asking you to support the Governor’s request for funding for the Center. The Center assisted me when my roommate began harassing, threatening, and intimidating me based on my race. I initially reached out to my landlord for assistance but was largely ignored and offered unworkable solutions. I had no choice but to flee my home to a hotel, in the midst of a pandemic and during the winter holiday season. The Center stepped in to take quick action on my behalf. The Center successfully negotiated a resolution with my landlord that reflected my interests. They communicated with me quickly and efficiently even during the holiday season. 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.