

To: Connecticut General Assembly Planning and Development Committee
From: Christine Farley, West Hartford

Re: SB1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, etc.

Date: March 15, 2021

Chairman Cassano
Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey
Vice Chairman Needleman
Vice Chairwoman Goupil
Ranking Member Senator Hwang
Ranking Member Zullo
And Members of the Committee:

I live in an all-white neighborhood in West Hartford. For many years, my husband and I have taken care of our black grandson when my daughter, who is single, makes frequent trips abroad for her job. Theo has spent many months at our house over the course of his 12 years.

One morning, when he was about eight, Theo said to me, "Gram, what am I doing here?" I said, "What do you mean, Theo?" He repeated his question. I said, "You're staying with us because your mom is traveling, like you always do." He pointed to his arm and said, "No. I mean this." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "It's my skin. There's no one else here who looks like me."

PLEASE start taking the first steps toward creating an environment in this state where someone like my grandson can look around and feel at home.