

S.B. 1024: An Act Concerning zoning authority, certain design guidelines, qualifications of certain land use officials and certain sewage disposal systems

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Testimony from Stefanie Hill

Resident of Deep River

I strongly support S.B.1024 by the Planning and Development Committee.

When I first moved to Connecticut from Indianapolis 13 years ago, it was immediately apparent that segregation was prevalent in the state. It was even more apparent when I began teaching in Hartford how this segregation affected our state's children. The impact of this segregation is evident when comparing neighboring Hartford and West Hartford. The fact of being housed a mile in one direction or another on Albany avenue could significantly impact the educational opportunities of the student and therefore life trajectory. And now as a parenting living in Deep River, it is concerning that our shoreline and river valley communities are so homogeneous both in race and socioeconomic status.

While redlining has been outlawed for some time, it is apparent that systemic racism in our state allows segregation to persist. Therefore, active legislation such as S.B.1024 is needed to counteract the current inequities. All communities need affordable housing to alleviate racial and socioeconomic segregation. This would allow families more freedom to live in cities and towns they choose and access the local public education as a right for all Connecticut students.

I strongly support S.B.1024 because we need action to desegregate Connecticut now.

Thank you for your time.

Stefanie Hill