

Dear Planning & Development Committee,

Please see attached for my written testimony in favor of SB 1024.

My name is Emily Napear and I currently live in Hartford, CT. However, I grew up in a very diverse suburb of New York. My schools were 30% white, 30% black, and 30% hispanic. My town had million dollar homes, a vast middle class, and public housing options. I loved my town and loved growing up amongst so much racial and economic diversity. Our schools thrived and we graduated as more compassionate, global citizens.

That is not happening here in Connecticut because of outdated and racist zoning laws. I am a teacher and I have worked in schools in Hartford, East Hartford, Windsor, Storrs, Windham, and Willington. All of these schools are suffering in some way from lack of diversity. In my teaching program we learned about the landmark case of Sheff Vs. O'Neill and celebrated its implications to help desegregate our schools. It's been 25 years since that supreme court case and yet our schools are still racially and economically segregated. We need our housing policies to align with our morals and it can no longer remain voluntary. It can not be left up to individual towns to make the right choice. We need affordable public housing in all towns so that everyone can experience economic diversity and opportunities.

Thank you so much for considering it.

Emily Napear
Hartford, CT