

To: CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

From: OGE NNA/NEW HAVEN, CT

Re: SB 1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines,  
Qualifications Of Certain Land Use Officials  
And Certain Sewage Disposal Systems

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 am writing you to express my support for SB1024. Affordable Housing in nice, clean, safe areas is an extremely important factor in high-quality life. It has been impossible for me to get affordable housing in nice, clean, safe areas in Connecticut due to the rampant racism and segregation. Therefore you have a lot of people, especially African-Americans such as myself who are suffering in the United States of America because we are being confined and restricted to CONCENTRATION CAMPS, commonly referred to as the "ghettos". It is 2021. How in the world can the United States of America, in particular Connecticut, still be so racist and segregated.

African-Americans are not going anywhere. In fact in about 25 years or less White Americans will be in the minority. Let's pave a path of humanity, equity, fairness, and compassion by ensuring that all Americans regardless of ethnicity has access to affordable housing in nice, safe, clean areas.

It can be done. How? The same way the Connecticut government integrated Syrian refugees into nice, safe affordable housing in towns such as North Haven, Hamden, Ledyard, Milford, and so on... in less than a decade. In fact I think the government had integrated these Syrian refugees in the aforementioned areas in as little as five years. I personally witnessed this back in 2016 when I took the bus to work passing through downtown New Haven a lot. I would see these Syrian refugees on the bus going to the Refugee Center in East Rock area of New Haven (up the street from Wilber Cross High School).

Within less than five years I stopped seeing those Syrian refugees around the New Haven downtown area. Instead I started seeing them in places like Milford, Wallingford, North Haven, Ledyard, Hamden, and so on. All in nice, safe, quiet areas where predominantly White people live. So I know it is possible for Connecticut to provide safe, clean, and affordable housing to African-Americans. The question is do you have the will and courage to do what is right? The United States of America is at a crossroads in it's history. If this country is to maintain it's so-called "first-world" status, all Americans regardless of ethnicity are going to have to start to work together.

I'm at a point now, where I am starting to look for the "American Dream" outside of America! If important issues such as affordable housing is not solved, then hundreds (maybe thousands) of Black people will start to look for a better life in other countries abroad.

Again I support the efforts for more abundant housing and more diverse types of housing in Connecticut. We need it affordable and desegregated. And we need it now! Not five, ten, fifteen, nor twenty years from now.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I appreciate it. And I am happy that the issues of affordable housing, racism, and segregation in Connecticut is finally getting the attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Oge Nna