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**House Bill 6948: An Act Concerning The Collateral Consequences Of Criminal Records On Housing Opportunities**

Hello Senator Marx, Representative Felipe, Ranking Members Senator Sampson and Representative Scott, and all the distinguished members of the Housing Committee.

My name is Annette Diaz, I am a resident of Vernon, an enrollment specialist for a healthcare provider, a Recovery Support Specialist, and most importantly a mother. I am here to testify in support of HB 6948: An Act Concerning the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Records on Housing Opportunities.

As a person who has been directly impacted by the criminal legal system in Connecticut, as well as the collateral consequences of living with a record, I have experienced first-hand the barriers that people face when trying to find a place to live, trying to find employment, trying to find healthcare, and trying to provide a better life for my daughter. To me, HB 6948 is not only about giving people who are searching for an apartment while living with a past conviction, it's about their families who may depend on them, like my daughter depends on me.

Despite over a decade passing since my conviction, despite the programs I've completed (as well as the programs I have coordinated and run), and all the steps I've taken to rebuild my life, it is a undisputable fact that my record continues to shadow everything I do, and unfortunately, it hangs over my daughter as well. To me it isn't fair that a landlord could deny me an apartment based merely on a criminal record from my past, particularly when I've completed my sentence, paid my debt to society, and have not had any arrests in the time since. I believe that HB 6948 give people who are doing the rights things a real opportunity to show that they are not what it says on a background check and that they, as well as their children, deserve an opportunity to be a tenant.

I urge the members of this committee to support HB 6948 and thank you for listening to my testimony.