



765 Asylum Avenue, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-523-9146
www.acluct.org

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 Lori -L- LeDonne, I am a resident of Shelton, a musician, a medical delivery driver, and a Smart Justice Leader with the ACLU of Connecticut. I am here to testify in support of HB 6948: An Act Concerning the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Records on Housing Opportunities.

I am addressing the committee from my own experience. I am formerly incarcerated and when I was released in 2020 I considered myself fortunate that my mom upon her passing, left me a small condo to move into when I was released

My family did not want to lose the property due to my incarceration, so the title is actually in someone else's name. And to be frank, this has become an opportunity for them to become manipulative and have control and power over me.

I would get angry, drunk calls from this family member to 'GET OUT- I'M DONE WITH YOU.' My home is at the whim of an angry person looking for someone to blame for her problems.

This left me frantic and scrambling for alternatives, knowing how unpredictable my family could be. I searched for any means of securing a safe place.

THERE WERE NONE. It was my first realization of what dire state homelessness is for people who are re-entering society and need a roof over their heads - a safe place to begin to build a foundation for their best chance of success. If there's no home, there's nowhere to find hope.

And I knew firsthand how having a background check could ruin your life after having the hardest time securing a job. I was hired and fired the same day more than once after the hiring manager ran background checks thus deeming me unhirable even though my resume proved I was OVER qualified. How was going to afford anything???

These practices must stop - housing is a human right. If I had such difficulties with the privileges that I have had, I can't even begin to imagine what it must be like for those who do not.

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