PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES

Partnership for Strong Communities promotes equitable change in Connecticut housing policy by coordinating advocacy, advancing research, and uniting diverse partners

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

Representative Felipe, Senator Marx, Representative Scott, Senator Sampson and distinguished members of the Housing Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. I am Alysha Gardner, Senior Policy Analyst with the Partnership for Strong Communities. We are a statewide nonprofit research, policy and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring everyone in Connecticut has a safe, stable home that is affordable to them in an equitable community of their choice.

We respectfully request that the committee support **S.B. 1267 – AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING AUTHORITY JURISDICTION.**

We support permitting public housing authorities the discretion to expand their jurisdiction to provide their residents housing options in high and very high opportunity communities. We support policies, like this bill, that increase housing choice and mobility for residents, as well expand access to jobs, a diversity of neighborhoods, and schools. Most housing authority residents are people of color that live in areas of higher poverty. Increasing community choice for housing authority program participants is a positive step toward increasing the racial and economic diversity of Connecticut's municipalities.

Permitting a housing authority to expand its jurisdiction would do no more than provide the housing authority with the same opportunity for site selection and development as any other private or nonprofit housing developer. Everyone deserves access to a safe, stable, affordable place to live. We ask you to support S.B. 1267 and pass it out of the Housing Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Alysha Gardner
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