

Connecticut Commission on  
Women, Children *and* Seniors



Testimony of the  
Commission on Women, Children and Seniors  
Submitted to the  
Commerce Committee  
February 23, 2017

**Re: H.B. 5226, AA Mandating The Implementation of the Learn Here, Live Here Program.**

Senators Hartley and Frantz, Representative Simmons, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors (CWCS) on the above referenced bill.

H.B. 5226 would require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish the Learn Here, Live Here program, which helps students save toward a down payment on their first home in Connecticut by segregating a portion of their state income tax payments for up to ten years after they graduate.

CWCS runs a program called Young Women Rising, which is aimed at encouraging leadership among young women ages 18-35 in the political process, workplace and community. As such, we are in tune with reality that Connecticut has been experiencing a “brain drain” for many years. Talented and energetic young people that received their educations in the state are leaving in high numbers<sup>i</sup>, in large part due to the high cost of living. As the baby boomer generation reaches the age of retirement it is critical that there are younger workers to fill the ranks. CWCS supports measures, such as the Learn Here, Live Here Program, which would create incentives for young people to remain in Connecticut.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

---

<sup>i</sup> Business Council of Fairfield County Foundation, Connecticut Economic Competitiveness Diagnostic, 2016