

Good afternoon, Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I am **Elizabeth Gamache, a person in recovery**, I am here today to express concern about Proposed S.B. **666, An Act Concerning Safe Residential Treatment Facilities for Effective Recovery.**

I thank the founders of the sober house that I live in. I am able to live in a safe, clean sober environment. I'm living on life's terms, with a positive attitude, full time job and paying old bills back. Today I am spending lots of time with clean sober recovering addicts, celebrating a clean happy future and knowing that we are not alone. It's a great pleasure to wake up every morning happy to be alive and well. There was a time I would have ignored "these" people and "those" places but now I hold out my helping hands and commend them. At the end of each day I can look in the mirror knowing I've worked hard today, stayed clean and sober and living a honest life, in a sober home...not a house because that is what I believe it is to me.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this extremely important issue. **Please do not put in place a statute that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons who are striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. Please consider working with DMHAS and the recovery community to accommodate community needs."**