

Good Afternoon Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Pamela Allen the Owner & Director of Evergreen Sober Home located in New Haven, CT. I am also a person who is in recovery for the past 11 years. I am here to express concern regarding Bill 666.

Again, for past 11 years I have been in recovery. I never knew the word recovery before until I was incarcerated in 1993. After release I went into a program called Dutchers Hall Rehabilitation. From there my recovery began. Since I have been in recovery the past two years I was introduced to Cheryle from CCAR. She had put into my heart to open up a recovery house. Ever since then I have been networking, and loving what I do for those in recovery and those who are seeking recovery I breathe it catch and everyday for everyone I know run recovery homes. Since then she has introduced me to DMHAS and they have been so wonderful to the members of my household by supplying their needs.

I also coordinate a Recovery Ministry at Union Temple Freewill Baptist Church for the past 3 years with a member size of 25. I am Co-Chairperson for the Substance Abuse Policy and Prevention for the City of New Haven. I am a member Project Safety Neighborhood for New Haven, CT. A member for SBA, WBDC.

If it had not been for Cheryle and DMHAS I would not be able to help those who are seeking recovery and helping those who are in recovery.

Please do not put in place a statue that may well jeopardize access to housing for person who are striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. If this happens there will be so many people out there on drugs and alcohol homeless with no kind of help to prevent this stigma of addiction. Please keep the bridges together recovery exist and housing for recovery together.

Please consider working with DMHAS and the recovery community to accommodate community needs.

To prevent those to know recovery exist and not end up like me for so many years not knowing that recovery existed.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this extremely important issue.

Pamela Allen