

March 1, 2010

Good morning, Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee,

I am writing to you today to express concerns I have about H.B. 5243, an act concerning sober homes.

In my experience living in a sober residence I found the rules and bi-laws that governed to be beneficial to my early recovery.

For the most part they are private owned by other people recovering from addiction, and the norm's in place are already strict guidelines to provide safe recovering environments for people trying to be productive in their lives.

I feel that involving outside influence, for instance the State of Connecticut, it will do more harm then good.

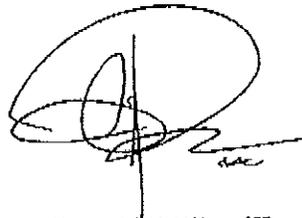
Think of it this way, you wouldn't hire a carpenter to fix your sink, right? The same goes for the recovery based community. DMHAS, a recovery based organization has programs together, outreach centers, and guidelines for sober living centers which are extremely helpful for the "new comer" in recovery.

I've been in treatment before, and I have received more care and empathy from another recovering addict rather than someone with book knowledge of the struggles I had.

In conclusion I am just asking you to consider not placing a statute that may jeopardize access for newly recovering addicts trying to better their lives.

Please consider working along with DMHAS, the Recovery Housing Coalition, and the recovery community to accommodate our needs.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert J. Phillips III', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Albert J. Phillips III