

Good Morning, Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Human Services committee. I am here today to express concerns about **H.B. 5243 An Act Concerning Sober Homes.**

My name is Sue Holly, I am in recovery and have owned and run Stepping Stone House for five years. I feel this is a great need to many in the community. I have seen many men transition from the sober house to becoming employed, responsible and productive members living in their own homes. Stepping Stone House is funded through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction services. Our homes are overseen by DMHAS. We filed a 170 page Request for Proposal for this funding which included many letters of support from Department of Corrections, Parole officers and area treatment centers. Stepping Stone House has standards set forth by DMHAS and CCAR (Connecticut Community for Addiction and Recovery). Each house is inspected often with surveys given to each client on how the house is run. Any house manager for our houses are engaged in the recovery process themselves, utilizes a sponsor and actively write on the 12 Steps which is key in sustaining recovery. They become house managers after living at the sober house for over a year and the progression in their recovery process is noticed by changes in behaviors, attitudes and random drug testing that remained negative for that year. Contact with house managers is daily with the owner (myself). House managers are used for guidance, support and a power of examples for other males that enter the house. They have the ability to share their experience with others in the same situation and help direct when it is needed.

Please do not put in place a statute that may well jeopardize access to housing for persons striving to recover their lives and become productive members of society. Please consider working with DMHAS, the Recovery Housing Coalition of CT and the recovery community to accommodate community needs.

Thank you,
Sue Holly
Stepping Stone House