

Testimony for Raised Bill # 405
March 12, 2010

Good Afternoon Committee on Public Health and honorable legislators:

Thank you for listening to our voices and Yes to this new act for good legislation.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COST EFFECTIVE
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR FREQUENT USERS OF COSTLY STATE
SERVICES.***

To increase the availability of supportive housing for homeless individuals and families who are frequent users of costly state services.

This is good news for all of us who have been advocating for serving people in real need, creating healthy housing and lowering costs, including rising medical costs, for our state and communities. I am a big supporter of our shelter system. However, it is a Band-Aid and not a solution for the good of all people. We need to step up to the plate and put the money toward healthy solutions. They are all there ready to be implemented while saving the tax payers money that could be used for other services in our communities!

I have served on many boards for the health and welfare of people in need of assistance and have just recently joined the Ryan White Planning Council to continue voicing the concerns for people with HIV and AIDS. In my hand I hold a documentary of over 100 people living with AIDS or HIV from last years Advocacy Days at the Capitol. Many who were interviewed state that stable, affordable housing would be the solution to their overall health and wellbeing. We have no idea what the future holds for the increasing number of people in need of housing and services and we need to be proactive. This is a good step in the right direction. I support this critical developmental stage of creating supportive housing targeted toward those people who are frequent users of high cost state services for all communities and all residents! I am starting to be filled with Great Hope!

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