

Testimony in Support of Raised Bill No. 1162
AAC The Filing Deadline for Certain Property Tax Exemptions
Submitted by
Andrew Czerniewski
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Rushford Center Inc.
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Good Afternoon Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz and members of the Committee. My name is Andrew Czerniewski and I am CFO of Rushford Center. Rushford is a private, non-profit organization that annually provides mental health and addiction prevention and treatment services to more than 7,000 Connecticut residents. I am testifying in favor of Bill 1162, An Act Concerning The Filing Deadline for Certain Property Tax Exemptions; specifically, Section 4.

For more than 20 years, Rushford has operated a 68-bed residential and outpatient treatment center at the former Town Farms Inn on Silver Street in the City of Middletown. Our organization received a tax exemption from the city every year from 1990 to 2009. In 2009, we submitted a tax exemption application for 2010 that contained a clerical error, leading to a rejection of the application by the City Assessor. Rushford subsequently received a bill for more than \$250,000 and paid it, in order to avoid the accrual of interests and penalties. The legislation before you today will allow Rushford to resubmit the application and receive a refund from the City. The Mayor and Council leadership are supportive of this bill.

Without this legislation, Rushford will be forced to reduce services to clients at a time when the need for our services has never been greater. I thank you for your consideration and would be happy to answer questions.

Andrew Czerniewski
Aczerni@rushford.org
(203)238-6880