

Hello,

My name is Kathleen Perrier, I am here today to ask that you vote against H.B. No.5142 AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE LOCATION OF GROUP Homes and H.B. No. 5259 AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE LOCATION OF GROUP HOMES.

I have two sons, my youngest ,Randy, has both an intellectual and physical disability. My oldest, Jay, has a undergrad degree in molecular cell biology and he is currently working on his master degree in biomolecular science. Although they could not be any further apart as far as their intellectual abilities they both have the same hopes and dreams for their futures. Both wish to be contributing citizens in what ever community they choose to live.

If Jay chooses to live with 3 or more of his peers it is no one else's business and he is free to do so. However, because Randy has a disability his home would need a public hearing as if he and his house mates were criminals and the community needs to be warned of such individuals. Contributing to the stigma that people with disabilities should be shunned and segregated.

We have inclusion laws in this state to make sure that students with learning disabilities are included with their non disabled peers as much as possible through out their school years. We try to teach our children to accept people for who they are so I am unable to comprehend why as adults they some how do not deserve to be accepted with in our communities.

I am also unable to comprehend why any legislature would submit such an Act for passage. As the mother of someone with a disability I see this as housing discrimination and I would ask each of you to reject these proposals as such.

Thank You,
Kathleen Perrier
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