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Proposed HB 5142

Proposed HB 5259

Dear: Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile and the Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

We sit before you to protect the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. I am sure that every one of you has had the opportunity to either rent an apartment or purchase your own home. When you found the home of your dreams did you have to knock on every home in that neighborhood and ask them if they had a problem with you purchasing this home? I am sure you did not. Did you have to divulge to your neighbors that you have a disability because I am certain that everyone in this room has some sort of disability? Why are we focusing on people with developmental disability that are supervised 24/7 instead of focusing on people who may pose a risk to our community. Our individuals are supervised by trained professionals and should have the same rights to purchase a home and live where they choose like any other American Citizen. Isn't that what American freedom is all about. What is next? I don't like the color of your car, the fact that one leg is shorter than the other or I wear glasses so the neighborhood takes a vote that I can't move in. Ladies and gentleman I am pretty sure that discrimination has been outlawed on many different levels in our country. What you are proposing is blatant discrimination.

These bills violate their constitutional rights and place their personal safety in jeopardy. The protection of these rights include Section 8-3e of the Connecticut Statutes which states in part that no zoning regulations shall treat any community residence that houses six or fewer individuals with intellectual disabilities and necessary staff persons and that is licensed under the provisions of 17a-227; which is the statute for licensing with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) differently from any single family residence.

As a United States Citizen's we have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is clearly written in our constitution. Now if I have a developmental disability I no longer have those rights?? If you had a loved one in this situation which way would you vote? Think about this before you fight to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



United Way

Patricia A. Gibney
Program Director

Support Advocacy Respect Community

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