

Testimony of Walter L. Glomb, Jr.
to the Joint Committee on Planning and Development

February 7, 2011

Good morning members of the Committee. My name is Walter Glomb and I live in Ellington. I am the father of a young adult who has Down syndrome and who will soon be looking for his own place to live. I am here to speak AGAINST House Bills 5142 and 5259 - ACTS REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE LOCATION OF GROUP HOMES.

Today my son lives in my home. Someday – soon, I hope – he will move out to a place of his own. When he does, will he have to face a public hearing?

If he and a group of his peers decided to move into a house that had been purchased for them by a private, non-profit company and, in order to receive essential state services, they had their home designated a Community Living Arrangement to qualify for funding through a federal Medicaid Waiver, would they be subject to a public hearing?

These bills are not about parking, traffic, land use, public utilities or municipal services. We already have zoning laws, boards of appeals and commissions for those issues. These bills are not about facilities - they are about people! They are about where and how a particular class of innocent people may choose to live.

Where are we headed here? Where would you have my son live? Are we on a path to creating separate ghettos for individuals who have developmental disabilities? Or assigning them to segregated State institutions – again?

These bills would curtail the personal liberties of a class of innocent people.

I ask the Committee, respectfully, please do not vote for these bills.

Thank you.