

Hello,

My name is Jim Ray, and I live on Maxine Road in Bristol, across the street from a formerly proposed site for a DCF funded group home for troubled youth. When I learned from my neighbor about the proposed group home, my first reaction was shock. I couldn't believe that the law allowed a group home such as this to be installed into a single-family residential neighborhood like ours without notice to the neighbors, or without zoning considerations.

- At the very least, the law should require notification and public hearing when any group home is proposed to be installed into a neighborhood.
- I would like to see even further steps to protect our rights, and our neighborhoods. I think that the 1000' distance that the law requires between group homes should be extended to at least 2500' to assure that certain neighborhoods aren't saturated with group homes. To put it into perspective, the proposed group home on Maxine Road would have been 10 houses away from another group home up the road on Boy Street. We currently have 4 group homes within a 1 mile radius in our neighborhood.
- I would also like to see a differentiation between group homes. A group home for mentally challenged or physically challenged individuals poses little or no threat to the surrounding neighbors. A group home for troubled youth or for recovering drug addicts poses much more risk and more threat to the neighborhood. As a father of two young girls, and as a homeowner and taxpayer, the thought of a group home for teens with emotional or behavioral problems, or a group home of recovering addicts being placed next to my home troubles me, to say the least.
- This seems to be an issue that people don't know about, or don't care about until it is happening in their neighborhood. I didn't know about the laws regarding group homes until I learned of one being installed across the street from me. Now that I know, I think that the laws should be revised to consider our rights. I would be apprehensive to purchase a house next to any group home, and I would never purchase a

house next to a group home that might pose risk to my children. For the government to allow group homes to be placed into any neighborhood, without informing the neighbors and allowing them to voice their concerns is reprehensible. I think that most homeowners, most taxpayers, and most parents would agree with me.

- At the very least, our government owes it to us to inform us when a group home is being placed into our neighborhoods, and to have a public hearing on the matter.

- I would like to thank Frank Nicaastro, Jason Welch and Whit Betts for proposing this legislation on behalf of my neighbors, and all of those who they represent. Thank you all for your time.