

**TESTIMONY OF James DeLano**  
**IN OPPOSITION TO**  
**HB 6350- AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND**  
**OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.**

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name **James DeLano** I am the Owner/Administrator of Riverview Lodge Residential Care Home in Deep River, CT. I am unable to attend but want to offer my strong opposition to the Governor's Budget, specifically the capping of residential care home rates and elimination of the small partial rate increase from last year.

The partial rate increase has allowed us to get out of the continued hardships that we faced during the past several years of the DSS rate freeze. We have been facing extremely difficult economic times for our staff and facility. This impacts the quality of care that we must maintain for our residents, there are so many improvements that we must complete and are unable to do so. We finally received a partial rate increase which was used for necessary capital improvements (i.e., we replaced a furnace ). We have had increases in utilities, taxes, staff costs etc. It is impossible to think that the slight increase we received will now be taken back.

Residential Care Homes provide safe housing for individuals with mental health and other disabilities that prevent them from living in the community on their own. RCH's provide a great benefit for those in need at a very reasonable cost. We are now seeing more and more referrals from Nursing Homes (Money Follows the Person) and are able to provide services to those who cannot live in their own homes for a fraction of the cost of a skilled nursing facility.

We ask that you please raise the residential care home rates. Without the rate increase homes will go out of business and disabled individuals will be forced to live in unsafe unstructured environments that will further burden our society and possibly lead to more tragedies in our communities.