

Testimony of Deanna Bencivengo in Support of HB 5747, An Act Concerning Bonding to Benefit Redemption Song, Inc.

Before the Public Health Committee

February 27, 2013

10:30 a.m. 1D

I am Deanna Bencivengo of Wallingford, a board member of Redemption Song, Inc. dba The Dry Dock, a not-for-profit providing a safe and sober environment for the community. I support HB 5747 which would provide bonding for acquisition and renovation of a 12,000 square foot building at 68 Quinnipiac Street to provide sober transitional housing to families. This unique and innovative proposal for family sober living would allow 12 families at a time to stay intact and recover together as a family unit.

This concept does not currently exist anywhere in the state. It offers a new opportunity for parents in recovery. I have seen parents in recovery have to choose between leaving their children and/or spouse or sober care after discharge from treatment. This is a tough decision for parents who may have left their children in a less than perfect living arrangement while seeking treatment. Families need to be together to help the healing process. The cornerstone of recovery is surrounding yourself with healthy people. Children need to see their parents grow and heal.

As a single parent in recovery, I have seen the benefits of having my children with me. I have benefited from the help I received from my family during treatment, while other friends have not had this support system. Our proposal would change that, offering a safe, sober environment in the critical beginning of sobriety.