



02/27/13

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Regarding: HB 5747 "An Act Concerning Bonding to Benefit Redemption Song, Inc."

Rushford is one of Connecticut's leading substance abuse and mental health treatment providers. Each year, we provide detox, residential and outpatient treatment services to thousands of adolescents, adults and families coping with substance abuse and mental health issues. Established in 1975, Rushford has collaborated with top universities such as Yale, Dartmouth and the University of Connecticut in the advancement of treatment for addiction and mental health disorders as well as local area providers.

In our collaboration with staff from the Redemption Song Inc.'s 'Dry Dock' programming it has been made clear that they provide an essential service to their local and surrounding communities by providing community-based access to supportive services for those in need, as well as a safe, sober and educational environment open to the community.

The funding that is being sought would allow the Redemption Song Inc. to expand and provide a necessary service to those whose families have been torn apart by addiction, and who are doing everything in their power to recover for themselves and their children. Addiction destroys relationships, is strongly associated with domestic violence and places children at-risk for neglect, delinquency and future destructive behaviors themselves, thus continuing the cycle which the Redemption Song Inc. aims to break. By providing these necessary services to families in a caring, structured and supportive transitional living situation, they would be giving families a chance to break the cycle and advance themselves and their children toward a life free of the pain and heartache that addiction brings.

As mentioned, this would be a benefit for clients and the community as this type of programming does not currently exist in the local area where they are proposing it be added. I along with fellow colleagues from Rushford are looking to increase our association and collaboration with The Redemption Song's Inc., and have visited the site being considered and have confidence that this proposed project would be an exceptional asset to those served by both the structure/location of the building itself and in programming provided by The Redemption Song, Inc. staff.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss the matter.

Sincerely,

*Mark J. Ludwig, MS*