



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

**Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85<sup>th</sup>) in Support of HB 5747, An Act Concerning  
Bonding to Benefit Redemption Song, Inc.**

**Before the Public Health Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 27, 2013**

**10:30 a.m. in Room 1D**

The Dry Dock is a successful non-profit, sober alternative café, meeting place, dance hall, and center of social activities in Wallingford for those recovering from alcohol and substance abuse. It is a safe place to gather and meet other recovering friends. The café offers crisis interventions, support sessions and events and works with local agencies and mental health providers like Rushford. The affiliated charity for Dry Dock is Redemption Song, Inc.

The Dry Dock wishes to expand into an adjacent building and offer transitional supportive housing for a 6-12 month period for recovering, sober clients and their families. Twelve families can be housed temporarily. This is a unique proposal—it will be the only housing in Connecticut for clients to live with their families and supportive staff. Family is exceedingly important to continued recovery and sobriety of former substance abusers. The 6-12 month stay covers the critical recovery time period when residents are most vulnerable to relapse, while the brain is recovering and healing.

With me today are Rich Figlewski, executive director, and some of his board members who will speak later. We also have testimony from Marlene McGann of South Central CT Substance Abuse Council and Mark Ludwig, Clinical Director at Rushford, in support of the proposal.

The bill does not mention a specific bonding amount, but up to \$250,000 will be needed to purchase the building for this sober living transitional facility. We ask for your support and a joint favorable reference to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. Thank you for hearing this bill.