

Egan SB115

March 7, 2013

RE: Testimony against proposed site 60 West Street to house inmates and the mentally ill.

The nursing home at 60 West Street, Rocky Hill, should not be used to house inmates and the mentally ill. The legislative history of Public Act 11-44 states that General Statutes 17-32a Facilities would not be located around residential housing neighborhoods. This facility is surrounded by homes, apartments, and condos. Homes are so close that the inside of the facility is visible from their windows. The facility will not operate like a normal nursing home. Governor Malloy said the residents would not be able to leave the premise, therefor making it a prison. The facility only accepts inmates and mental ill patients. It will not house individuals that are in normal nursing homes. The facility plans on housing 95 inmates and mental ill patients. It has been unclear as to what health issues the residents will have and if they are paroled individuals. Malloy says they will be end-of-life individuals. Is that three months or ten years to live? He spoke of patients with dementia and Alzheimer's. This disease is know to cause frustration, anger, and unwillingness to listen to direction. Combining these traits with an individual and a criminal history or mental disorder is very difficult to control. Also, cancer patients are able to walk, run, and are capable of doing things non-cancer people can. Which means these individuals are still capable of doing harm. If this facility is a regular nursing home, then there will be staff there that isn't trained to deal with such individuals. Surrounding residents will fear for their safety, as well as the staff.

iCare is claiming to be part of the state and can bypass town zoning laws. If this were true, then the patients at the facility would not qualify for Medicare or Medicaide. They can't have it both ways. iCare needs to go through the town of Rocky Hill for proper zoning and permits.

This facility is being created to give the state a break in caring for inmates and the mentally ill. This is their loophole out. These individuals should be housed in the prison buildings that have been closed or the CVH buildings that are empty. If these individuals have no threat to the community, then they should be released and be admitted to a normal nursing home. This facility is telling society, we can commit a crime, get cancer, and get free care at 60 West Street. The property site planned for this form of operation is inappropriate. It is an extension of a prison and it is a threat and burden to the community. I plead that we do not gamble with such and plan and house these individuals in correct setting with the correct staff.

Thank you,
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