

**Testimony of Luke Leone, Moises Padilla and Jon Pepe
Public Health Committee - March 8, 2013
In Support of SB 115**

Chairman Johnson, Chairman Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee:

We represent the nearly 5,000 members of the AFSCME NP-4 Corrections Bargaining Unit. Our members are front-line prison employees, including correctional officers, parole officers, treatment counselors, maintenance and more. We are proud to serve.

The NP-4 Bargaining Unit urges you to support SB 115, An Act Concerning The Approval Process For Residential Nursing Facilities Serving Inmates And Mental Health Patients.

This proposed legislation is a sensible measure that would ensure our communities have a voice in whether or not to establish a residential nursing home facility that would house inmates and mental health patients.

Clearly, that input has been missing throughout the Rocky Hill nursing home process.

Our union is on record as opposing what's happening in Rocky Hill. Taking prisoners who have been remanded to the Department of Correction and placing them under private supervision imperils public safety. It violates the trust of victims and the public.

Quite frankly, we are stunned the administration and the Department are outsourcing public safety at a cost to the taxpayers. We have trained, skilled officers within DOC. We have closed prisons facilities that could be reopened if needed. The rush to open the Rocky Hill facility with a private security force begs the question: Is the State of Connecticut putting dollars and cents ahead of safety and security?

We think that's the case. Therefore we ask that you support SB 115 so we can put a stop to ill-conceived, dangerous ideas like the nursing home in Rocky Hill.

Thank you very much.