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House Bill 6001

Public Health Committee

Public Hearing 2/27/2013

We are writing to respectfully request your support for **House Bill 6001 – An Act Concerning Residential Communities for Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities**. We are grateful to State Rep. Terrie Wood and to the Public Health Committee members for their hard work in order to establish a platform of support for sustainable residential and farm/work communities for young adults with developmental disabilities to move forward.

The residential and farm/work model, like Green Hills Farm & Community (GHF&C) **has been proven nationally and internationally** to successfully provide support for its target special needs population. Sustainable, vibrant, and integrated communities like these benefit not only the residents of the community, but also the greater community at large, providing an array of commercial and residential opportunities, goods and services, employment, and tourism.

Our son, Nicholas, is 22 years old. He is an active, happy, and capable individual who would benefit greatly from living in a community like Green Hills Farm and Community. He loves work, his friends, family, and being outdoors. We have visited farm based communities in New England, but unfortunately have found none in the state of Connecticut. This is Nick's dream as well as ours; for him to be part of a thriving and vibrant community that successfully interfaces daily with members of surrounding communities. Nick needs some support in his activities of daily living, but he does not need or deserve to be isolated. This community and farm based model benefits not only our young adults with special needs, but everyone involved.

We ask that you enthusiastically support and embrace HB 6001. The Green Hills Farm and Community model will service many citizens of the state with and without developmental disabilities. This is an extraordinary example of how citizens of Connecticut with passion, commitment, and hard work can make a positive change that will affect so many. The support from the State of Connecticut would mean so much to all of those citizens who have put their heart and soul into this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration for House Bill 6001.