

**MICHAEL GILERMAN**

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**1 Sasqua Road, Norwalk CT 06855**

House Bill 6001  
Public Health Committee  
Public Hearing: 2/27/13

I am writing to you on behalf of Nicole Bastoni who introduced me to the fascinating world of the “Exceptional People”. I kindly ask for your support to **House Bill 6001- An Act Concerning Residential Communities for Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities**.

I am the proud Co-Founder of Green Hills Farm & Community after I discovered in Israel a Farm Community that was born out of a kibbutz 20 years ago. It is today, world renowned Farm & Community for people with special needs.

We are grateful to State Rep. Terrie Wood and to the Public Health Committee members for pursuing this legislation that will help lay the groundwork for the establishment of the much needed sustainable residential and work communities for young adults with developmental disabilities.

The idea for this legislation comes from the dedicated families and volunteers who are working diligently to establish the Green Hills Farm & Community (GHF&C) in Fairfield County – a place where young adults with developmental disabilities can live in a safe environment, build their self-esteem through work and sense of achievement and make life-long friends resulting in a happy life. Isn't it every parent dream for their children?

Nicole loves people and is sensitive to their pain. She loves animals and nature. Nicole loves to be recognized for a job well done, for being a “helper”. Give her the above and she will strive. Nicole's emotional needs are no different than those of her friends, the Exceptional People. I hope that the State of CT seizes the moment, embraces GHF&C and becomes a true advocate, also in deeds, for the most vulnerable segment of our society.

The purpose of HB 6001 is to encourage the State of Connecticut to be a partner and a cheerleader for the project. The GHF&C has already gained a lot of momentum. We receive inquiries regarding GHF&C from parents and family members from CT as well as from Wash, NY, NJ, PA States to name a few. We would be grateful to have the support from Hartford as well.

I thank you in advance for your support of House Bill 6001.

Michael Gilerman