



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 8, 2013

Senator Terry Gerratana
Co-Chair
Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3000

Representative Susan Johnson
Co-Chair
Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3000

Re: Senate Bill 115- An Act Concerning The Approval Process For Residential Nursing Facilities Serving Inmates And Mental Health Patients.

Testimony for The Public Health Committee Public Hearing on March 8, 2013

Dear Senator Gerratana and Representative Johnson:

We are writing to thank you for voting to hold a public hearing on **Senate Bill 115- An Act Concerning The Approval Process For Residential Nursing Facilities Serving Inmates And Mental Health Patients.**

This bill seeks to prevent a pending injustice to the Town of Rocky Hill which could be imposed on many other towns in the State of Connecticut if this legislation is not passed into law: the siting of a nursing home institution for Department of Correction inmates and mental health patients without any prior knowledge or input from the host community (in our case, the Town of Rocky Hill).

The foregoing nursing home institution for inmates and mental health patients was purchased by a private sector entity on private land without the knowledge of the Town of Rocky Hill. The State of Connecticut quietly contracted with a private business and instructed the private business to buy the land and prepare to move in without any notice or input by Rocky Hill officials and residents.

We think the siting of such an institution necessitates the notice of and input from the host community. Rocky Hill was not given any such respect and consideration.

The language of Senate Bill 115 seeks to reverse this injustice and require the State of Connecticut to obtain public input and approval from the host community prior to the placement of DOC and DMHAS individuals into the new state institution. We think this is a reasonable approach that provides proper notice and participation to the host community.

Thus, we ask you to vote favorably to JF SB 115 out of your committee.

If you do not support this bill beware - YOUR TOWN MAY BE NEXT. The State of Connecticut intends to open MORE such DOC/DMHAS nursing home institutions in the state and also intends to EXPAND this new siting and placement process for DOC/DMHAS individuals into private sector assisted living facilities in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Doyle', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Paul Doyle
State Senator
9th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Guerrero', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Antonio Guerrero
State Representative
29th District