

Catherine Foley & Ted Faraci, Gilmore Manor
Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes

**Re: Section HB 5537- AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.**

Public Health Committee, March 14, 2014

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, we are Catherine Foley and Ted Faraci, owners/administrators of Gilmore Manor in Glastonbury and members of the Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes. We are writing this as **testimony against Section 15 of House Bill 5537- An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes.**

The Connecticut Association of Residential Care Home includes the majority of the over one-hundred homes in the state. We serve about 3,000 residents, about sixty percent of which have behavioral health or mental health diagnoses and the remaining percentage being elderly. Residential care homes are not medical facilities nor do we provide medical care. We do not have anyone on staff qualified to assess or diagnose medical or mental health issues. Nor can we make recommendations for living arrangements for residents who are beyond our abilities for providing care.

Section 15 of House Bill 5537 would require residential care homes to take additional steps in writing a resident discharge plan and perform tasks that we are not equipped to do or have ever done. Residential care homes are made up of small staffs and have limited funding. We do not employ doctors, nurses, licensed social workers or any other certified professionals. It is beyond the scope of our operations. We not offer medical diagnoses, analyze resident emotional states, or make determinations as to what would be an appropriate placement. This proposal would require us to do so for all residents who leave our facility

The vast majority of our discharges are the result of a resident having a physical or mental health decline, which requires hospitalization. They are then typically discharged directly from the hospital into a more appropriate level of care. This is because the hospital has staff that are qualified to make the determination for where they would best be served. The mental health authorities should be involved in planning all other discharges (i.e., those not involving hospitalization), as they have the training and resources to assist people in their moves. Frankly, it is a waste of our time to have to provide testimony against such an ill conceived bill. We need to focus our attention on our residents, facilities and staff. This takes time away from our core responsibilities.

The proposed language would be inappropriate, burdensome and costly. I urge you to reject Section 15 of House Bill 5537.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine Foley and Ted Faraci
Gilmore Manor, Inc.