Parent of Resident
March 9, 2015

Senate Bill no. 203; Committee

Dear Sirs,

Here we go again. A town taking an elitist attitude and turning its back on one of the best mental health programs in the country. The program works: any town would be proud to have an organization like CHD manage the care of people who need help in a family atmosphere.

Our son, age 62, lives with 4 other clients in a one-family home in New Milford, staffed 24 hours a day by professionals who monitor and direct daily activities with the skills and attitudes used by parents and teachers.

We are delighted with the care that our son receives in the CHD residential program. There is a semblance of normal family life. All five clients are mild-mannered and respectful of other people.

You will not find these clients becoming a part of the drug epidemic taking place in some communities. You will not find the clients engaging in criminal or vandalism acts as you will find in some communities.

The "character of the town" will be enhanced. Residential programs like CHD's are found in towns all over the state. Have you ever heard or read about any problems? If you have any doubts, visit the residential programs in Danbury that have been there for years. Talk to clients and staff in New Milford

before you turn against them.

And lastly, from a purely economic point of view, there is a huge benefit to a typical town through the purchase of goods and services, dining in restaurants, etc. and the employment of staff.

For example CHD on 1 Fox Lane in New Milford has invested, and continues to invest, improving their home.

You can contact me at 261 Daytona Rd, Trumbull Ct 06611 if you need specific examples of the value of residential programs. They work and they become an important part of the community.

John Hamer