

CONNECTICUT LEGAL RIGHTS PROJECT, INC.

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING 3/6/15  
STATEMENT OF KATHLEEN FLAHERTY, ASSOC. EXEC. DIRECTOR  
In Opposition to Proposed S.B. 203

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, and members of the Committee:

The Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP) is a legal services organization that advocates for low-income individuals in institutions and in the community throughout the state who live with mental health conditions. We support initiatives that integrate individuals into the community.

CLRP joins with others who are OPPOSED to Proposed S.B. 203, AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY RESIDENCES.

The stated purpose of this proposed bill is: "To require community residences to comply with local zoning and land use regulations and ordinances." It would apply to those community residences governed under C.G.S. § 8-3e, and require them to comply with **all** [emphasis added] local zoning and land use regulations and ordinances.

The very premise of this bill potentially runs afoul of rights protected under the Connecticut Constitution, the Connecticut and federal fair housing laws, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Connecticut General Statutes § 8-3e is the statute providing for regulation of community residences for persons with intellectual disability, child-care residential facilities and community residences for persons receiving mental health or addiction services. Community residences are defined as those residences which house six or fewer persons who are

- people living with intellectual disabilities,
- children with mental or physical disabilities, or