



# State of Connecticut

## SENATE

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### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 203 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY RESIDENCES Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing March 6, 2015

Chairpersons Osten and Miller, Ranking Members Linares and Aman, and members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 203: AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY RESIDENCES.

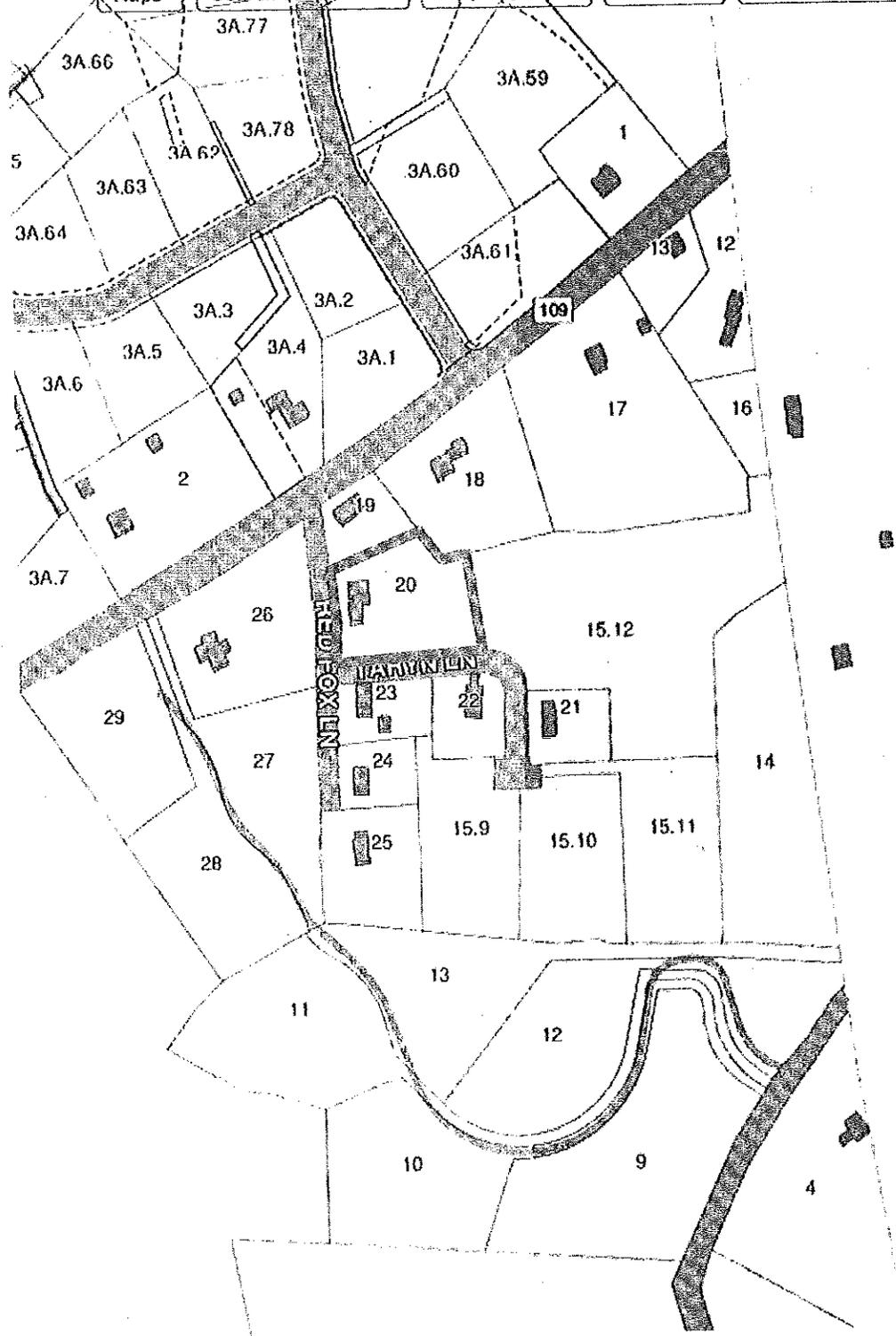
CGS 8-3e prohibits zoning regulations from treating child-care residential facilities and community residences for persons with intellectual disabilities and those receiving mental health or addiction services, any differently than any single family residence. This bill seeks to change Sec. 8-3e to allow for some oversight by local zoning and was introduced after problems arose from the siting of a DMHAS-funded residential facility in a private neighborhood in New Milford.

It is important to note that New Milford has been home to a number of these community residences for decades. Most have gone unnoticed and the residents of these facilities have been good neighbors. Unfortunately, the establishment of this most recent facility has been problematic and continues to be a source of disruption to what was once a quiet neighborhood.

This particular community residence is located on a private, narrow, dead-end road. It is also located on a non-conforming lot (smaller than 60,000 square feet in an R-60 zone) since the house was built prior to the inception of zoning in New Milford. With 5 adult clients, supervisory staff and necessary support services, the number of vehicles that come and go on a daily basis far exceeds those associated with a typical residence. It is my understanding that space for parking is limited as well. These are the types of issues that zoning would consider when approving an at-home business. Unfortunately, current law prohibits zoning from dealing with these types of issues in these situations.

Thank you again for providing an opportunity for testimony. I respectfully ask that you give favorable consideration to this bill or at the very least, modify it to give zoning some oversight to allow for appropriate siting of these facilities.

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