

Public Hearing Testimony Proposal H.B. No.5618
"An Act Concerning Community –based Residential Facilities"

February 13, 2015

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Regrettably I am unable to attend today's public hearing for H.B. 5618, but I wish to thank the Planning and Development Committee Co-Chaired by Senator Osten and Representative Miller for the opportunity to express the sentiments of my community regarding proper notification of community-based sexual offender group homes.

Manchester is a community that has always taken great pride in creating a wealth of partnerships and programs that enhance the quality of life of our residents through support in meeting basic human needs and promoting services that foster self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Our community has long held the belief that with proper planning and resources, we can make a difference in the lives of many individuals and their families; nowhere has that been more evident than through our communities outreach efforts to secure appropriate housing and facilitate the transition planning process for sexual offenders. However, our experience has taught us that facilitating successful re-entry is a challenging endeavor that requires a Community Outreach Plan to ensure its success. H.B. 5618 could prove to be the successful legislative link that will serve our efforts to raise community awareness, increase sexual abuse prevention efforts, and enhance investigations to devise an appropriate plan of supervision of sexual offenders that ensures that proper resources are available to change behaviors and prevent recidivism; Public awareness is an important first step in beginning this process.

Today, as policy planner and concerned citizen, I am asking your Planning and Development Committee to take that first step by please carefully considering the adoption of H.B. 5618 and the potential it offers in ensuring the safety of our residents, protecting the rights and responsibilities of public safety and honoring the bill's intent to improve behavior change and collaboration efforts with our community partners.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Ann Eckbreth
Member, Manchester Board of Directors