



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MARK TWEEDIE
THIRTEENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
Mark.Tweedie@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Planning and Development Committee
February 13th, 2015

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Senator Linares, Representative Amann and the entire membership of the Planning and Development Committee. I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify before you today in support of the two following bills, *H.B. 5618 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES* and *H.B. 6483 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY GROUP HOME DISTRIBUTION*.

Both pieces of legislation seek to create a uniform process of notifying municipalities when a state-operated group home may be placed within a municipality. Specifically, *H.B. 5618* is aimed at enacting recommendations to the municipal notification process. For example, in the Fall of 2014 the Department of Corrections contracted a half-way house in Manchester housing four convicted rapists and one convicted pedophile in a neighborhood mostly comprised of women and children. The house is also located directly across the street from a bus stop, and close to an elementary school. Obviously, this placement caused outrage within the community.

For your review, I have included supporting documentation from the Town of Manchester's Task Force on Mental Health and Group Home Issues in Manchester. Within the documentation, you will also find a PowerPoint that presents statistics relating to municipal services in the Town of Manchester compared to other municipalities with less state-operated group homes.

There is a clear disparity in the use of municipal services for cities and towns that have larger numbers of group homes and community-based residential facilities. Furthermore, the bill would call for a review of the placements made by the state on a cost base analysis of institutional versus community-based care and compensates them accordingly.

The bill would also offer recourse to municipalities that have a disproportionate number of group homes by creating a provision for state reimbursements for services related to such community-

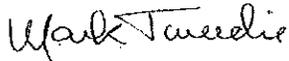
based care facilities. Additionally, there would be greater oversight of the group homes and community-based care facilities through monitoring the implementation of health care plans.

To conclude, I would urge you to consider a moratorium for the placement of such facilities in the town of Manchester until the distribution of group homes is further investigated. It is simply an added financial burden to the municipalities that house larger numbers of clients receiving care in group home settings. Consequently, the passage of the bill is necessary in order to create a system that thoughtfully distributes residential-based care facilities

For the reasons stated above, I urge you and your colleagues to support both pieces of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Mark Tweedie
State Representative, 13th District