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Testimony for the proposed bill SB 203: AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY  
RESIDENCES before the Planning and Development Committee  
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I would like you to consider making changes in the statute 8-3e that allows State funded Mental Health and Addiction services the legal right to create communities without following local zoning laws. This is a serious concern of mine due to the fact that one such community was built at the end of my community right after I purchased my property. I feel that this property not only brings my property value down, but also directly affects our livelihood and safety in the neighborhood.

The organization that purchased the home in my neighborhood is situated at the end of a private road that is maintained by the residents. It is situated close to the bus stop, and the house itself is about a cars length away from the road. The house is directly across from our mailboxes and also has a sunroom that has a great view of the entire Taryn Lane where my children ride their bikes and play. There is no way possible for my neighbors and myself to not be in direct contact with the residents there.

As a mother my main priority is the safety of my children. I commute and hour to live in the country and to be able to afford a nice home with land. I encourage my children to play outside, go for bike rides and to run. When we first moved into my neighborhood, we thought we should pinch ourselves because we had found our own little Pleasantville.

When we found out the CHD had bought the property up the road we thought that it wasn't that big of a deal. We thought that perhaps some people with development issues might move in, but then there were 10-15 cars there in the afternoon, they built two parking areas on the lawn and are seeking to put another parking lot in. The people that work at this home drive in and out with no regard for the neighbors. They don't take good care of the property with six garbage cans, some over flowing at times. Our free town newspapers on the mailboxes started to disappear from all of the neighbors mailboxes. We started seeing patients walking up and down the road with caregiver constantly smoking.

From what I have been told, there are 5 schizophrenic patients living there right now. Schizophrenic people are 5-10 percent likely to be violent according the CATIE study. As a mother, this is very disturbing that our elected officials think that people with mental disorders have more rights than we do as homeowners to provide our children with a safe neighborhood.

If they can move into this neighborhood, it could happen to your neighborhood as well. I could happen to any of your loved ones. When I have talked to people about this at work or to my family, they are amazed that this can actually happen. If it happens in your community, which it will, your constituents are not going to be happy.

I think the law needs to be changed in a way that works for both the residents of the community and the community homes. Why does it have to be one or the other? If you care about the people of this state, their safety, and livelihood, please seriously consider this bill.