



State of Connecticut
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Testimony in Support of HB 6681

An Act Concerning Residential Communities for Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Public Health Committee

March, 4 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Crisco, Representative Riley, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee.

I am writing to request your support of HB 6681 AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, and would like to take the time to thank Representative Wood and Representative Steinberg for introducing this important piece of legislation.

I rise on behalf of one of my Norwalk constituents, Nicole Bastoni, who is a young developmentally disabled woman. For years Nicole and her family have been searching for an appropriate adult community for her to call home as she has transferred out of the educational system in recent years. Her father Robert Bastoni submitted written testimony in 2013 in support of this bill which was at the time HB 6001. On top of this her mother, Kimberly testified before the Public Health Committee in the same year also in support of this legislation. To this day they still support the concept of Green Hills Farm & Community (GHF&C), which is a farming community for young adults such as Nicole to not only live, but to prosper and call home.

Nicole has a passion for being outdoors and engaging in interactions whether they are person to person or with various domesticated animals. She is an avid horseback rider and has found comfort in this activity since she was a young child. It is has been clearly displayed through her many experiences helping others and enjoying her time spent in the outdoors that Nicole will

benefit and thrive in an environment that fosters friendship and meaningful activities. GHF&C will provide this for her.

Unfortunately many in this state are faced with the unknown as their beloved family members age out of the school systems and require state assistance. For those who do not have the benefit of a large network of potential caretakers within their family it is a scary and daunting task to identify a self-sustaining solution before their loved one is left on their own. Communities such as GHF&C will assure that citizens such as Nicole have a safe and reliable home for them to live out their lives.

I would like to again take the time to thank the committee for their efforts in moving this bill forward. It is vital in assisting those with developmental disabilities to live a fulfilling and meaningful life as well as helping to ease the immense amount of stress that their caretakers feel as they age out of the education system. That being said I would like to commend the introducers of this bill and offer my assistance in any way I can.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Perone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Representative Chris Perone, 137th District