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House Bill 6681
Public Health Committee
Public Hearing: 3/4/2015

We are writing to request your support for House Bill 6681, An Act Concerning Residential Communities for Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities.

Our son, Bjorn, turns 23 this year. He is a healthy young adult who loves to be among friends, is a hard worker and has autism. He enjoys staying active and participating in community programs. Bjorn is currently in a day program and a growing concern to us is the availability of work opportunities in our community.

To help create housing and vocational options, the idea and plan for Green Hills Farm & Community (GHF&C) was developed by a group of concerned, devoted parents and volunteers. GHF&C will be a community that provides housing, meaningful work, the chance to form lasting friendships and the opportunity to give back to the greater community. Residential farming communities serving people with special needs have proven to be successful in many states in the US and in other countries. Bjorn, and many others, would thrive in a community like Green Hills Farm.

It is understandable why this type of community is generating enthusiasm and support among friends and family of people with developmental disabilities. We also need the support of our state and its leaders.

Thank you for allowing our testimony and thank you for your support of House Bill 6681.