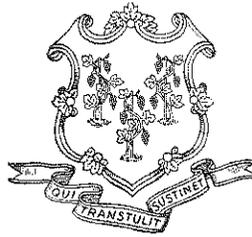


**SENATOR BETH BYE**

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**State of Connecticut**

**SENATE**

March 4, 2015

*Chair*  
Appropriations Committee  
*Vice Chair*  
Childrens Committee  
*Member*  
Education Committee  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Management Committee

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Public Health  
RE: SB 683 An Act Concerning Supportive Housing For Persons With Intellectual  
Disabilities**

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

My name is Beth Bye, State Senator representing the fifth district towns of West Hartford, Farmington, Burlington, and Bloomfield.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on SB 683, an act concerning supportive housing for persons with intellectual disabilities. Supportive housing has been a successful model for populations facing complex challenges. These include individuals at risk of becoming homeless, those facing the challenges of substance abuse, and former prisoners facing acclimation back into the community.

Supportive housing is a viable housing option that enables people to live with stability and dignity. Furthermore, the cost effectiveness of it has driven supportive housing initiatives to be supported as an economically sound policy. Instead of individuals cycling through high cost crisis care and emergency housing, supportive housing is a far more cost-effective option.

People with intellectual disabilities encounter countless challenges when looking for housing. The Arc, leaders in helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, have broken down the struggles that individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities face with regards to housing:

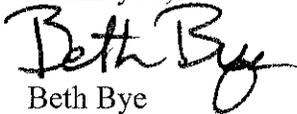
- **Affordability:** Over 4.8 million non-institutionalized Americans with disabilities who rely on Supplemental Security Income have an income of less than \$8,700 per year. These people are priced out of every housing market in the country.
- **Aging Caregivers:** Aging parents find that they cannot provide supportive services for their adult disabled children. These children face institutionalization or homelessness as a result.
- **Housing Discrimination:** Individuals with disabilities face discrimination in both public and private housing settings.
- **Availability:** The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development does not meet the needs of the prevalent number of people with these disabilities.

Services that provide supportive housing are not readily available for people that have intellectual disabilities. Many of these individuals are trapped on a 2,000 person waiting list for community housing. Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities may also remain in institutions like Southbury Training School, which prevents them from living within their communities. A supportive housing community would allow people with disabilities an independent living opportunity.

I urge the Committee on Public Health and the Department of Developmental Services' Commissioner Murray to work collaboratively to create a pilot program for supportive housing for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Bye". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Beth Bye