

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Somers,
Representative Petit and Esteemed Members of the Public Health committee.

I am in opposition to including Licensed Residential Care Homes in
Senate Bill 1030-AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.

I have been the owner and Administrator of Alberta Manor since
1977, along with my sister, Patricia Santavenere and currently my
son Steven Richheimer, Jr.

The nature of our facilities is to provide a non-medical supervised
living arrangement for persons with Mental Illness. During my time at
Alberta Manor, I have seen numerous hospitals that once simply housed
people with mental illness close. (Norwich State Hospital, Cedarcrest Hospital,
Portions of Connecticut Valley Hospital.)

This was a tremendous savings to the State of Connecticut. We
now provide 24 care for residents who previously remained in State
Institutions.

The purpose was to provide a non-medical facility to meet the needs of these
individuals by providing meals, laundry, housekeeping, medication supervision,
coordination of doctor's appointment, recreation, transportation,
and many other daily activities.

Bill 1030 is attempting to bring our homes into a more medical style facility.
Increased staffing would be necessary to employ a full-time infection specialist

Section 4:

Refers to having one staff licensed to start an intravenous line.

This is not feasible. We do not stockpile any medications to connect to
the IV! Our medication certification prohibits any injectable medications
(other than an Epi-pen) This section must be removed from pertaining
to Residential Care Homes.

We also do not have the staffing to create a prevention and control committee.

Section 7:

During the pandemic, Residential Care Homes were not included in
the contract to have an agency come in to conduct weekly testing.
Once again, demonstrating that RCH's are not included nor should they be
included with mandates for nursing homes.

Visitation protocols in nursing homes are not on the same basis in RCH's.
Our residents are free to come and go as they please.
We also do not provide care for dementia patients.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that we are a bargain for the State of Connecticut. Our niche is to provide level of care for individuals who do not need nursing home care. Residential Care Homes should remain completely separate from nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, assisted living and chronic disease hospitals.

If these measures are passed, residential care homes will become miniature nursing homes with many increase costs and staffing.

I respectfully request that Residential Care Homes are removed from Bill 1030

Sincerely,

Katherine Richheimer
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