



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

**DDS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**March 6, 2015**

Senator Osten, Representative Miller and members of the Planning and Development Committee. I am Morna A. Murray, J.D., Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to [Proposed S.B. No. 203](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY RESIDENCES**.

[Proposed S.B. No. 203](#) would require that the community residences governed under section 8-3e of the Connecticut General Statutes “comply with all local zoning and land use regulations and ordinances.” The community residences covered under section 8-3e are licensed group homes of six or fewer persons with intellectual disability; licensed child care residential facilities housing six or fewer children with mental or physical disabilities; and licensed community residences that house six or fewer persons receiving mental health or addiction services. These community residences are licensed and funded by the Departments of Developmental Services (DDS), Children and Families (DCF) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) respectively.

DDS opposes this proposed bill for the simple reason that it is unnecessary and redundant under the Connecticut General Statutes. The current language in section 8-3e already states in subsection (a) “No zoning regulation shall treat the following (i.e. community residences) in a manner different from any single family residence”. This means that if there is a local zoning or land use regulation or ordinance in effect for single family residences in a municipality, community residences also must comply with the same regulation or ordinance. In addition, there are a variety of mechanisms already in place if a municipality has concerns with the way a DDS group home is being operated. DDS would refer you to previous testimony and follow up already shared with the Planning and Development Committee this session.

In short, DDS believes section 8-3e of the Connecticut General Statutes already requires community residences to comply with local zoning and land use regulation and ordinance and that [Proposed S.B. No. 203](#) is not necessary for enforcement of these local laws. You may contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066, if you need additional information on DDS’s opposition to this bill.