

**Testimony of Steven Richheimer
Administrator, Tracy Manor**

Concerning

*Section 12 of H.B. No. 5020 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH.*

Public Health Committee Public Hearing, March 6, 2020

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Somers, Representative Petit, and Esteemed Members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding Section 12 of House Bill 5020- An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding Public Health.

My name is Steven Richheimer and I am the Owner/Administrator of Tracy Manor, a 17 bed RCH in West Hartford. Like most RCH's we care for people who are diagnoses with mental illness, providing them a safe homelike atmosphere.

I am testifying today to raise my concerns about Section 12 of HB5020 regarding the extending of the discharges process for residential care homes.

As an Administrator and owner of an RCH, I can confirm residents are discharged for the health and safety of the resident or the health and safety of the residents living with the client being discharged.

Most discharges take place when a resident's health has declined to the point that they need a higher level of care. It is a disservice to the client to hold them at a level of care below their needs.

The other less common reason for discharge is for behavioral problems. They present a risk to themselves or other residents. At one of our RCH's, the client would walk around the building setting fires to window shade cords and other items that caught his eye. Obviously creating a life-threatening risk to all the other residents of the home. Shockingly the discharge process was delayed by the health department and went through an appeal process while the lives of our residents were in jeopardy!

Delaying the discharge process is a great disservice to the residents and puts their health at risk.

I would argue that expediting the current discharge process would be much better for the health and safety of all our residents. It is naïve to think that someone other than the administrator who houses and cares for the clients 24 hours per day know the client's needs better or should be in a position to interfere with the discharge process.

Sincerely,

Steve Richheimer

Tracy Manor

860-523-9490