



October 5,2017

To whom it may concern,

The Honorable Governor Gina Raimondo,

As the Executive Director of the Alliance for Safe Communities a 503 non profit that has successfully lobbied some of the toughest crime bills in Rhode Island, my organization reaches out to you with great concern as pending bills H5159, and S0897 regarding sex offender housing are currently being considered for passage into law.

While many non profits have reached out to your office asking your “ veto” on this bill, as well as the ACLU, the Alliance for Safe Communities joins their request as well.

While the Alliance for Safe Communities assisted in research and some testimony at the House level in support of the bill.... We recused ourselves from moving forward with any further support, before it got to the Senate.

The following reasons should cause alarm as to why myself as the Executive Director and my board took measures to recuse ourselves from this sex offender housing legislation.

While working with Representative Lancia and offering research... the Alliance began to ask tough questions as the bill progressed and were “denied “answers which led us to terminating our relationship. All Rhode Islanders as well as legislators should be concerned with the incompetence of this legislation and the

lack of a constructive plan to implement it. Here are the key points of our concern:

What entity would implement this discharge plan?

How much funding would be given to this entity to implement a plan?

What is the plan of implementation ?

What amount of money will we budget to accomplish discharge planning of this legislation ?

What time frame are we allowing for implementation ?

What government entity will offer oversight and accountability for implementation of this legislation ?

The Alliance did not receive any answers to these questions before the legislation reached the Senate.

We now know the non profit Cross Roads, with little experience in housing sex offenders since inheriting Harrington Hall Shelter in July of 2016 was chosen for discharge planning.

We are also are now aware that \$1,05,000 was allocated in the Rhode Island 2017 Budget toward discharge planning to be awarded to Cross Roads Rhode Island.

There will be a 6 mos. Time frame for implementation of a plan not drawn up yet.

The largest bulk of sex offender relocation will occur from Harrington Hall which currently houses approximately 37 sex offenders, from a statement by the Chief of Police in Cranston in a Sept. 28 article by RI Future .org.

The Alliance is deeply troubled that this bill has morphed into a complicated equation costing the tax payers such a large sum of money with no plan in place.

The Alliance is concerned that while Representative Lancia orchestrated three community meetings and pressured Speaker Mattiello to deliver on this legislation , it was apparent the constituents of Western Cranston made it clear that their Speaker, and Representative Mattiello deliver the desired results as they would be a factor in his re election during these events. Representative Lancia repeatedly and redundantly expressed Mattiello's negligence over the

years regarding Harrington Halls problems at the Community forums, in front of his Speaker Mattiello's constituents as well as in television and media interviews.

It was deeply troubling to The Alliance when we addressed a Cranston Community facebook page to Representative Lancia, asking to have his female advocates remove what was borderline vigilante toward the homeless. particularly at Harrington Hall and our request was ignored. This was a face book page that went so far as to name and locate the homeless living in tents in the woods of Cranston. Representative Lancia did not take any action and allowed what was a factual, data driven, community forum, to engage in behavior the Alliance refused to support.

It is in the opinion of the Alliance for Safe Communities that this piece of legislation is driven by the wrong reasons. While there is no sensible plan as to how to implement such a bill, the desire to assure re election is the underlying motive for the passage of this legislation. This scenario resembles the "pan handling" ordinance debacle.

The Alliance would like to point out while we have worked in conjunction with the Attorney General's office on other criminal legislation passed. I myself requested that the Attorney General's office be inclusive in forming a comprehensive sex offender housing bill that would keep our communities safe and yet not discriminate. My requests to have the Attorney General's office engaged were denied. This legislation has no support from our Attorney General's office.

The Alliance for Safe Communities requests our Governor Gina Raimondo to "veto" this legislation and revisit this area of sex offender housing with more parties involved such as the Attorney General's office and a complete plan that will compliment our Sex Offender Registry which is already deeply flawed and in need of intervention as pointed out by the Assistant AG, Joe Lindbeck in House Judiciary Committee testimony.

The Alliance fears passage of this legislation in to law will cause negative results and impact to our state, in it's current form.

We respectfully thank your attention to this matter.

Carolyn Medeiros Executive Director Alliance for Safe Communities

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