

March 19, 2024

Chair Dziedzic and members of the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee:

My name is Chikio Richmond, I'm the Executive Director Healing Homes Living Services.

I'm writing this letter today in support of S.F. 3839. Both 245D and 144G licensing requirements are extremely rigorous and go beyond the scope of any city regulated rental license.

As a provider who holds a state license and has gone through a city licensing process, I feel to the local licensing is duplicative and serves as a vehicle for discrimination.

We have recently seen city licenses used as a backdoor tool to prohibit or remove facilities servicing individuals with disabilities.

This has disproportionately impacted BIPOC providers providing culturally specific care in suburban communities.

In the instance with the city of New Hope, they revoked the providers rental license, and did so in a way that violated the rights of the residents for setting closures and forced the provider out of business.

We need this bill to ensure such discrimination is prevented in the future.

Thank you, Senator Boldon, for carrying this bill.

Regards,

Chikio Richmond