



**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PEER/SELF-ADVOCACY UNIT**

350 South Bixel Suite 290
Los Angeles CA 90017
Tel: (213) 213-8000
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Toll Free: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (213) 213-8001
www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org

California's protection and advocacy system

March 20, 2012

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 3/20/12
Submitted in PULM Committee
Council File No: 11-0262
Item No.: 11-0262
Deputy: Comm. from Public

Re: Community Care Facilities Ordinance #11-0262

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council Planning and Land Use Management Committee:

My name is Scott Barron, I am 29 years old and gainfully employed as a peer self advocacy coordinator at Disability Rights California for a little over three years. This has given me opportunities I could never imagine which could not have been possible without the support of my community.

One of my main job duties is to provide rights-based trainings to individuals with developmental disabilities so they can understand their rights and services in the community. In every training I provide, there is an underlying theme of the importance of support whether it be from friends, family members, coworkers or community members. We discuss how these types of supports can help you with your goals and living your life the way you want to live.

One of my most popular trainings is Independent Living. In the training we discuss goals for the future and different living situations. We also talk about the right to live in the community and in a living situation of our choosing. One of the situations we often discuss in the training is living with a roommate or roommates. When people share their living situation,

they often talk about living with roommates and how much they support each other emotionally and sometimes physically with certain tasks. We also discuss how important living with a roommate makes them feel, especially for those that are away from their families. Some of the other remarks I get when discussing a roommate scenario is that it is nice to have someone to talk to, to tell them about their day at work or day program. Another remark that I get is I like having a roommate because we get to share chores and I don't have to wash dishes all the time.

I've come here today to encourage you to carefully consider the proposed ordinance. Obtaining and keeping affordable housing is already a major difficulty for individuals with disabilities because we often live on fixed incomes. The proposed ordinance would create a harmful and unnecessary barrier that could prevent people with disabilities from living in the community. Please support people with disabilities to live in independent living situations of our choosing no matter where the location might be.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott Barron
Developmental Disabilities Peer Self-Advocacy Coordinator