

# Testimony in Support of SB326

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To the Senate Committee on Local Government Chair Senator Carolyn McGinn, Vice Chair Senator Elaine Bowers, Ranking Minority Member Senator Marci Fracisoco, and Committee members thank you for your time and listening to the testimonies. I am writing as a concerned homeowner and member of the Lambsdale Neighborhood Association in Wichita, Ks. I know the importance of having group homes as they provide much-needed support to the varying communities that need them. I serve as a caretaker to my sister who has several mental illnesses and at one point in time truly benefited from the option of living in a group home. I would say the most important part of living in a group home is the interaction within the community the group homes reside in.

In my role at Wichita Habitat for Humanity I'm keenly aware of the importance of a diversified community that is multigenerational, multicultural, multi-able, and multi-socioeconomic levels helps to break down barriers and grow pride of place. While I'm not writing this testimony from my Habitat hat I find it important to share that portion of my housing expertise.

I don't think group homes should be placed together closely in neighborhoods. The homes should be spread out so that there is weaving into the community to create opportunities for broader connection. Unfortunately, some group homes have garnered a stigma. I believe regardless of the constituents in the homes group homes create opportunities for successful independent living and I support group homes. I don't support homes being placed in bunches. I believe they should be placed at least 1,320 feet away from another group home located in the same neighborhood. I also believe they should be placed throughout communities with access to the necessary amenities for those living within the home and staff to be successful. I thank you again for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,

*Danielle Johnson*

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