**Letter to the Editor**

**Proposal Background**

Your local health board is proposing to convert an existing house located in your neighborhood into a *group home* health care facility. The group home is designed to house six to eight people recovering from mental illness. To be eligible for living in the group home, clients must have demonstrated an ability to live successfully with other patients in a previous group setting within a hospital, be undergoing successful rehabilitation for their mental illness (determined by a treatment team consisting of a doctor, therapist and other mental health care professionals) and must have a job in the community. In addition, a qualified mental health care worker will be on the premises 24 hours a day.

The chief benefits of living in a group home

1. Expensive hospital beds will become available thereby reducing health care costs.

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2. The group home will act as a temporary step between health care institutions and integration back into the community

3. Quality of life is better when people are not institutionalized.

**Student Instruction**

Your job is to write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper stating your opinions and views on the proposal. You can choose either support or not support the group home.

**Marking**

The grade you receive will not be based on your opinion but rather, how well you state your case. Therefore, reasons must be given that will back-up your opinion.