Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Bob Bratina.

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Build the new Charlton Hall for young women with mental illness.

On Tuesday January 17th, people in the area close to the Corktown pub in Hamilton shot down the idea of Charlton Hall, a home for young women with mental illness, being brought to their neighbourhood. They say it discourages people from moving in. These 8 young ladies need this home. They suffer from eating disorders, cutting, and worse. They need the 24 hour care of psychological professionals. They have never shown harm to anyone but themselves. Their current live-in care facility is a crumbling structure that needs $1.2 millions in repairs. It's better to move. Part of why this didn't go through is because a Hamilton by-law prevents care and benefit programs from being within 300 meters of each others. A YMCA and a dentist are within that 300 meters. So please help petition that this home be built.

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Sincerely,

This is an issue close to my heart and I believe the prejudice this neighbourhood is placing on these girls is completely unwarranted. Young women have enough of a gauntlet to try and run through in their teens without the added stigma of mental illness preconceptions, especially by their ELDERS who are supposed to be wise and empathetic toward youth, not ignorant fear-mongers spreading a ridiculous idea that these young women would be a detriment to their community. I am utterly ashamed of these uneducated, prejudiced, ignorant people making these already incredibly vulnerable girls feel even more alienated. Please support our young people, they have a lot more internal stress and pressure to deal with in this world than we did at their age, and that's without the added hell of mental illness. These girls are not dangerous. They are not a threat to public safety. They are not violent criminals. They are young women with hearts and feelings and they are your daughters and nieces and the children of your friends. This stigma needs to end. Let's make that happen. Please build them a safe place where they can have some semblance of a stable, happy life while they are in medical care.
Lindsay Campbell-Beaudoin  
Hamilton, ON, Canada

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/mayor-build-or-move-the-new-charlton-hall-for-young-women-with-mental-illness. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.