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HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARING
MARCH 8, 2007
TESTAMONY OF RYAN LOOSEMORE

My name is Ryan Loosemore I am 20 years old. I now live at Middletown Brooke apartments at 3214 Town Brooke Middletown, CT. I am here today to testify in support of Money Follows the Person and Centers for independent Living.

I am a consumer of the Center for Disability Rights and of the Nursing Facility Transition Project. With the help of the Center for Disability Rights I transitioned out of High View health Care on January 22nd of 2007. I resided in the nursing facility for a little over two years.

I had many challenges to over come. I was just about 17 years old when I broke my neck and never lived on my own, I needed help with my activities of Daily Living & I could not afford accessible housing. I did not know what it would be like to live with a disability. I wanted to continue with school and get a job.

My transition coordinator and the staff at the Center for Disability Rights provided me with the Independent Living Skills, Advocacy and peer counseling that enabled me to over come those challenges which kept me in that nursing facility.

My Transition Coordinator and the staff at the Center for Disability Rights educated me about the PCA Waiver, Section 8 and RAP programs, which enable me to live on my own. They helped me understand my rights and how to advocate for myself. Through the Center for Disability Rights have met other people with disabilities and learned from them as well.

With the peer support from my Transition Coordinator I was able to better access the services from the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. Together with my BRS counselors we developed a vocational plan that will lead me to a successful career. I even have a van that is being modified by BRS so that I may complete my goal to get a job.

With the Independent Living Skills I learned during the transition process, I found my own apartment. I interviewed and hired my own PCA's, learned the skills needed to maintain a home. I am now a better advocate for myself.

I cannot express enough on how invaluable the Center for Disability Rights and Centers for Independent Living have been to me. The Center for Disability Rights made transition a reality.

Thank you, Ryan Loosemore