



CT Association of Centers for Independent Living
151 New Park Ave., Hartford, CT 06106
v. 860-656-0430 fax 860-656-0496

**Testimony of Gary E Waterhouse, Executive Director
CT. Association of Centers for Independent Living
February 27, 2007
before
Human Service Committee of the CT. General Assembly**

CACIL is a non-profit corporation consisting of five (5) Centers for Independent Living (CIL) located in Hartford, Norwich, West Haven, Naugatuck and Stratford. CILs are community based, non-residential, consumer controlled and cross-disability. Each follows the Independent Living Philosophy of self-help, self-reliance and self-determination.

CACIL SUPPORTS

**S.B. No. 117 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY
DETERMINATIONS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE MEDICALLY NEEDY.**

Statement of Purpose:

The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to 42 USC 1396a(r)(2), shall file an amendment to the Medicaid state plan to allow the commissioner, when making Medicaid eligibility determinations, to raise the medically needy income limit for persons who are aged, blind or disabled to an amount not to exceed one hundred per cent of the federal poverty level.

Connecticut is one of 35 states that operate an optional Medicaid program covering the medically needy. In general, this option covers the same groups of individuals as those in the categorically needy population, except they do not meet all the requirements, usually because their incomes are too high to make them categorically eligible. Operating this program allows individuals to use their medical expenses to "spend-down", or reduce their excess income to a level that makes them eligible for Medicaid.

In 2007 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published the following poverty guidelines: Size of family unit; 1 person \$10,210, 2 people \$13,690, 3 people \$17,170, 4 people \$20,650 and 5 people \$24,130.

SOURCE: Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 15, January 24, 2007, pp. 3147-3148.