



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Julia & Appropriations

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
April 30, 2007

Robert L. Genuario
Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

Settlement Agreement: *Lori Raymond, et al. v. John Rowland and Patricia Wilson Coker*

Good afternoon Senators Harp, Harris and McDonald, Representatives Merrill, Villano, and Lawlor, and distinguished members of the Appropriations, Human Services, and Judiciary Committees. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the proposed settlement agreement that is before you today.

In response to the class action lawsuit *Lori Raymond, et al. v. John Rowland and Patricia Wilson Coker*, which claimed a violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the State of Connecticut entered into negotiations with the plaintiffs and arrived at a settlement agreement. A total of \$7.7 million in FY 2008 and \$4.2 million in FY 2009 has been included for the Department of Social Services in both the Governor's recommended budget and the Appropriations Committee's budget. These resources will allow for improvements to the twelve regional offices to facilitate program access for people with disabilities, the installation of a document imaging system and a telephone voice response system to support eligibility operations and the staff to support these new systems, updates to the DSS website and client forms, staff to assist clients in office reception areas, staff to provide screening for disabilities and employment-related services, and continuation of the Employment Success Program. To implement the provisions of the settlement agreement, a total of 19 staff in FY 2008 and 35 staff in FY 2009 are being recommended. Costs over the six year settlement agreement are estimated at \$24.0 million, excluding fringes.

I respectfully request your support for this settlement agreement. Both the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Social Services are available to provide more detailed information on the settlement agreement.