



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities

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March 12, 2008

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**Testimony before the Committee on Government Administration and Elections**

Secretary  
Imelda Reno  
Arc of Farmington Valley  
Canton

**Re: S.B. #678, “(Raised) An Act Establishing A Community-Based Health and Human Services Strategy Board”**

by

**Lynn Warner, Executive Director/The Arc of Connecticut**

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Middletown

Senator Slossberg, Representative Caruso, and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

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Dawn Lazaroff  
Tri-County Arc  
Columbia

I am Lynn Warner, Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 56-year-old statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. We have 23 local chapters that provide supports, services, and advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities throughout Connecticut.

Contributions are tax-deductible

I am here today to testify in support of **Senate Bill #678, “(Raised) An Act Establishing A Community-Based Health and Human Services Strategy Board”**, as it directly impacts the private provider service community in Connecticut and all the individuals and families that they serve.

Historically, The Arc providers have been in existence making services available for the longest period of time and are funded at the lowest level. And there appears to be no relief in sight with a **zero COLA** proposed in the Governor’s budget. When health insurance, oil and fuel prices, liability insurance, and worker’s compensation costs are spiraling upwards adding to the strain of budgets already spread too thin – how can the people they serve NOT be directly effected?

As advocates – representatives of our Association have been contacting the changing administrations in the Governor’s office and coming before the Connecticut Legislature for nearly 20 years, describing the plight of desperate individuals and families and how important services are to them. We have urged

Formerly Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens (CARC)

**The Arc/Connecticut, Inc. Member Chapters:** Futures, Inc., Middletown / Greater Enfield Arc / Family Options, Watertown / Arc of Farmington Valley / Friends of New Milford, Inc. / Litchfield County Arc / LOV-Arc, Westbrook / MARC, Inc., Manchester / MARC: Community Resources, Portland / Arc of Meriden-Wallingford / Arc of Greater New Haven / Arc/New London County / Options, Unlimited / Arc of Plainville / Arc of Quinebaug Valley / SARAH Inc., Guilford / SARAH Seneca Residential Services / SARAH Tuxis Residential Services / STAR, Norwalk / Arc of Southington / Tri County Arc, Columbia / Waterbury Arc / WeCAHR, Danbury

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