



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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**Testimony Submitted by State Representative Catherine Abercrombie, 83rd District
Before the Public Health Committee - March 12, 2008**

**Re: H.B.5666 An Act Concerning Expansion of the Pilot Program for Persons with
Autism Spectrum Disorders.**

Good Morning Chairwoman Sayers, Chairwoman Handley, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Representative Catherine Abercrombie of the 83rd District. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

I am here today in support of House Bill 5666 An Act Concerning Expansion of the pilot Program for the Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

As you may know Autism is a complex neurological disorder that affects brain development; its impact on the ability to communicate decisively and function socially are highly debilitating. Autism affects 1 in 150 individuals.

In 2006 the General Assembly started a Pilot program for Adults with Autism. We were 1 in 3 states which had no services for adults with Autism that did not have mental retardation.

This bill would expand the pilot program to the Hartford County with 25 individuals. The New Haven County program has been very successful with 28 individuals.

The obstacles of Autism may not be able to be fully overcome, however with you help we can reduce the hardship endured by so many families. I sincerely hope you will vote favorably on this vital legislation and substantially improve the lives of so many families with Autistic Adults.