

Committee on Aging,  
Room 2A  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

March 3, 2009

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.  
I hope that you will support proposed bill 245  
This bill would allow municipalities the option of providing some tax relief to homeowners who have made modifications to accommodate a disabled family member residing in the home.  
This would be a great help for families.  
It would also be a logical extension of the abatements already granted for retro fitted vehicles that allows for the transportation of family members with disabilities.

I am a parent and both of my children were born with severe disabilities.  
My husband and I were always committed to keeping our children at home and taking care of them. As a nurse I always felt qualified to care for them although there care was 24/7 and quite intense at times.  
We never considered placing them in a group home or convalescent home.  
As you must all be aware, the cost of institutionalization is enormous and help to families caring for someone at home is sparse.

As our children grew physically carrying them up and down stairs became difficult and maneuvering two wheelchairs impossible. Modifications were not a viable option for this house. We sold our 2 story house and purchased a 1 story home that could be modified to meet there needs.

My son Fred passed away in June of 2006 at the age of 11.  
I am now a single mother.  
I still have the same commitment to take care of my daughter who is 22 years old.  
I intend to keep her at home and care for her as long as I can.

To support us I work nights and weekends to maximize my hourly wage and minimize the number of hours that I am away from the home.  
So far I am able to cover household expenses and provide health insurance for us.  
I do however see our household expenses rising.

I know that a property tax abatement would be a great help to our household and my commitment to keep Sarah at home.

Sincerely



Sandra Lynch