



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities

43 Woodland Street, Suite 260, Hartford, CT 06105

Telephone: 860-246-6400 Facsimile: 860-246-6406

Website: www.arcofct.org

346  
6402

Executive Director  
Lynn C. Warner

President  
Ken Cholewinski  
SARAH Seneca  
Guilford

February 17, 2009

First Vice President  
Diane Aubin  
The Arc of New London County  
Norwich

Second Vice President  
Barry Sheffel  
Arc of Meriden-Wallingford  
Meriden

**Testimony before Committee on Human Services**  
**Re: S.B. #346, "(Raised) An Act Concerning the Transfer of Social Service Program Administration to Community Providers"**  
**and**  
**H. B. #6402, "(Raised) An Act Concerning Maximization of Medicaid Reimbursement for the State of Connecticut and Federal Assistance Percentages (FMAP)."**

Secretary  
Imelda Reno  
Arc of Farmington Valley  
Canton

by

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

Treasurer  
Anthony Recck  
Futures, Inc.  
Middletown

Good morning Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, and Members of the Human Services Committee. I am Lynn Warner the Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 57-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.

Immediate Past President  
Dawn Lazaroff  
Tri-County Arc  
Columbia

I am here today to testify in support of **Senate Bill #346, "(Raised) An Act Concerning the Transfer of Social Service Program Administration to Community Providers.** As a concept, The Arc of Connecticut fully supports the idea of transferring the administration of programs from the Department of Developmental Services to the Private Provider Sector, *but only IF the Providers are adequately and fully funded.* For years the private providers have served these individuals with dignity and quality and yet for years private providers have been consistently under funded. In addition, they have been continuously subjected to unfunded mandates, lack of adequate cost of living increases and extensive rate changes. Make no mistake, the Private Providers can do the very same work that their State paid counterparts do and can do it more efficiently, BUT they can not do it for nothing!

Contributions are  
tax-deductible

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

**Affiliated with The Arc of the United States**

Today, Private Providers are barely being funded enough to provide for *basic* health and safety needs of the individuals in their care, and we fear that the quality of life for these individuals will decline due to staff turnover, reduced service hours, and just the lack of involvement in their communities due to the consistent and chronic under funding.

Our concerns are not new. As advocates – representatives of our Association have been contacting the changing administrations in the Governor’s office and coming before different Legislative Committees for over 20 years. *We have described the slow but steady decline in quality of life and families have been shared with you how important private provider services are to them.*

Again, The Arc of Connecticut does support the concept to Transfer Social Service Program Administration to Community Providers, but the state will need to appropriate the adequate funding of such a process. Otherwise, it is an injustice to people of Connecticut with intellectual disabilities, their families and people who support them.

I would also like to support **House Bill #6402, “(Raised) An Act Concerning Maximization of Medicaid Reimbursement for the State of Connecticut and Federal Assistance Percentages (FMAP).”** The Arc of Connecticut strongly encourages the maximization of the use of federal Medicaid funds for Connecticut. Bringing more federal dollars into Connecticut will not only strengthen our economy, but it will allow those agencies and people who support individuals with disabilities increased opportunities to provided services.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.