



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities

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Testimony before Committee on Appropriations
Re: The Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan and
Impact of the Governor's Rescissions

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by

Lynn Warner, Executive Director/The Arc of Connecticut

Secretary
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Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, and Members of the Appropriations 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.

Treasurer
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I am here today to testify regarding, **The Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan and Impact of the Governor's Rescissions** as they directly impact the network of Private Providers in Connecticut and more importantly, **all** the individuals and families that they serve. 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. And now they face the current rescissions and proposed deficit mitigation planning.

Immediate Past President
Ken Cholewinski
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Already the Private Providers are barely being funded enough to provide for health and safety needs of individuals, and we do not consider that is an appropriate quality of life for the people in their care.

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With the proposed cuts and rescission in place, services are impacted on every level from the youngest in the Birth-to-Three programs, children involved in the Voluntary Services Program and adults in several areas – including the proposed reduction of ICF-MR rates by 2%.

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

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How are the people most in need of services able to receive the services they need if there are no services to be had?

We urge you to not cut anymore of the funding that is so vital for people in Connecticut. It is important for the Private Providers to remain a viable and efficient option for care – *especially* in a time when services and supports are needed more than ever, but more importantly so that people have genuine lives. Everyone is tightening their belts and doing without the extras these days – wants are being measured against needs and that is understandable. But to take away what is so desperately *needed* is inexcusable. To take away needed services is simply an injustice to people of Connecticut with intellectual disabilities, their families, and people who support them.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.