



Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living  
151 New Park Ave. Suite 106, Hartford, CT 06106  
voice 860-656-0430 fax 860-656-0496  
www.cacil.net

*...Working for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities  
through Centers for Independent Living*

**Testimony of Gary Waterhouse, Executive Director**

**CT Association of Centers for Independent Living**

**February 11, 2009**

**Appropriations Sub-Committee Public Hearing**

**African American Affairs Commission Budget**

Center for Disability Rights  
764A Campbell Ave.  
West Haven, CT 06516  
V 203-934-7077  
TDD 203-934-7079

Disabilities Network of  
Eastern CT  
238 West Town Street  
Norwich, CT 06360  
V/TDD 860-823-1898

Disability Resource Center  
of Fairfield County  
80 Ferry Boulevard  
Suite 210  
Stratford, CT 06497  
V 203-378-6977  
TDD 203-378-3248

Independence Northwest  
1183 New Haven Rd.  
Naugatuck, CT 06770  
V 203-729-3299  
TDD 203-729-1281

Independence Unlimited  
Suite D  
151 New Park Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
V/TDD 860-523-5021

**H. B. No. 6365 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET  
FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2011, AND MAKING  
APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.**

The African American Affairs Commission is a vital and necessary link between government, advocacy groups and people in the community. The Commission is often the only organization with the ability to assist non-profits conduct meaningful outreach in the african-american community.

The loss of the African American Affairs Commission would place another barrier in the path of progress non-profit groups are making conducting outreach to unserved and underserved sectors of Connecticut's urban population on the subject of available Home and Community Based Services.

The professional staff of the Commission is a tremendous asset to advocacy groups working to improve and promote economic development, education, health and political well-being of all citizens in the State of Connecticut.

We ask that the African American Affairs Commission receive funding allowing it to continue; information sharing, promoting cultural awareness, community networking, and legislative advocacy.