



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

**Testimony of Gary Waterhouse, Executive Director
Before the Human Services Sub-Committee of the Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2009**

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.***

CACIL OPPOSES- the elimination of state funding for Centers for Independent Living, and requests that funding be restored so that Centers for Independent Living can fully use the federal stimulus money that funds new programs and services for people with disabilities.

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are located in Hartford, Norwich, West Haven, Naugatuck and Stratford. CILs are community based, non-residential, consumer controlled and cross-disability. Each follows the Independent Living Philosophy of self-help, self-reliance and self-determination. CIL staff by design are people with disabilities, serving as role models, mentors and advocates. Most earn under \$34,000 per year. CILs conduct community outreach and deliversupports and services to the disability community often via federal and state grant s including: Nursing Facility Transition Program, Money Follows the Person, CT Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Nursing Home Diversion Program, Connect-ability Employment Program and Housing for People with Aids.

CILs receive limited federal funding to provide: Advocacy, Information and Referral Services, Independent Living Skills Training and Peer Support. (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Title VII, Chapter 1, Part C, Secs. 721-727; 29 U.S.C. 796f-796f-6)

In Congress, H.R. 1 "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" includes new one time funding for CILs over two (2) years. Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has said that the stimulus funding to CILs is for new programs not to replace state funding.

CACIL asks that state funding to Centers for Independent Living be replaced so that the Stimulus funds directed to CILs can be used to the full advantage of Connecticut consumers.