

## **FORConn**

**Friends of Retarded Citizens of Connecticut, Inc.**

**Website:<http://www.Forconn.org>**

### **TESTIMONY**

#### **TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT= H. B. 6365 AAC THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM  
ENDING JUNE 30, 2011, & MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFORE.**

**(In Regards to the Department of Developmental Services)**

**Good Afternoon. My name is Ted Walen, President of FORConn and I speak for our organization. My purpose this afternoon is to testify in support of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and its efforts to continue to provide effective services to all its clients in the trying times ahead. However we are particularly concerned with two vital areas which need serious reconsideration.**

**In the past the “waiting list” of candidates with mental retardation needing the services of the State was allowed to burgeon into impossible proportions. Only by the results of a Court suit was a plan put into place with sufficient funding to at least cope with the problem. This funding will come to an end in June of this year. It is critical to continue to deal effectively with the “waiting list” which otherwise will grow rapidly and choke the system again. This is especially important because of the increasing aging of our population and the coming “baby boomers” needing service. The need is a special case for a special population who has little means of coping otherwise. We urge you to continue the “waiting list” program!**

**The second concern is limiting of the dental benefits under Medicaid to emergency care only and eliminating non-emergency dental care for adults altogether. This presents these clients of DDS with no recourse. It has been a long hard road to bring dental service up to adequacy. There is no recourse for this special population. We urge you to continue the dental service!**

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