

Testimony of Michael Merriam  
Before the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly  
Public Hearing, Friday, February 20

Good afternoon, members of the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to tell you about my daughter so you will support funding for the Department of Developmental Services.

I am Michael Merriam, father of Millie Merriam. Millie is a resident of the 8 Card Street Group Home in Willimantic, which is operated by the state and staffed by state employees.

My daughter lives in this group home because she has cerebral palsy and mental retardation. Millie is non-verbal and in a wheelchair. She requires nursing care 24/7, along with five other clients who live with her.

Any cuts or changes in services would drastically affect Millie's quality of life. Millie's current caregivers know her, understand her and can meet her special medical problems, the same as they do for all the clients living at Card Street.

My wife, Ruthann and I know and trust these caregivers with our daughter's care. We are very happy about the attention she gets in this state-run group home.

It is a loving and clean house where Millie can live with dignity and a great quality of life. We feel welcome to visit her at anytime.

Please don't cut funding for this Group Home or State Caregivers!

Thank You for letting me speak for my daughter today.