

DISABILITY
RESOURCE
CENTER

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of Fairfield County, Inc.

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Tony LaCava; I am Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living in Stratford, CT, the Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County (DRCFC). The Center serves people with disabilities in 14 communities in Coastal Fairfield County—Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. Because of financial constraints our efforts have been focused in the Greater Bridgeport area.

My comments today are aimed at Deficit Mitigation activities; my hope is that you will find a way to **fairly** distribute the reductions in spending; the proposal to eliminate state funding to Centers for Independent Living is not only severe, it is not **equitable**. It is clear that there must be cuts. I only ask that they be fair and not result in devastating Centers which are critical in serving one of our most vulnerable populations—people with disabilities. I have attached a grid demonstrating to you the effects of the state cut suggested. It leaves us with some puny federal funding and allows the state to reduce its responsibilities to the disabled population.

I am not presenting this testimony in person; I think there will be plenty of people pleading their cases before you. I hope this written testimony reduces your time spent in this most terrible task.

I want to thank you for your past support and I fervently hope it continues

Tony La Cava
Executive Director
Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County

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A Center for Independent Living

SERVING THESE FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITIES

Bridgeport • Darien • Easton • Fairfield • Greenwich • Monroe • New Canaan
Norwalk • Stamford • Stratford • Trumbull • Weston • Westport • Wilton