



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities  
and related developmental disabilities

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March 23, 2009

**Testimony before the Government Administration and Elections  
Committee**

**Re: H.B. #5824 (Committee), "An Act Concerning the Payment of  
Personal Service and Purchase of Service Contracts"**

by

**Lynn Warner, Executive Director/The Arc of Connecticut**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, and Members of the  
Government Administration and Elections Committee:

I am Lynn Warner, Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 57-  
year-old statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual  
disabilities and their families. We have 23 local chapters that provide  
supports, services, and advocacy for individuals with intellectual  
disabilities throughout Connecticut.

The Arc of Connecticut is here today to testify in support of **House Bill  
#5824, (Committee), "An Act Concerning the Payment of Personal  
Service and Purchase of Service Contracts"**, as this Bill directly  
impacts the network of Private Providers who contract with State  
Agencies for the provision of health and human services in Connecticut.

It seems more than obvious that Private Providers should be paid  
appropriately and in a timely manner for the services they provide.

Currently, most Private Providers are barely being funded enough to  
provide for the basic health and safety needs of individuals, and having to  
wait for payments in excess of 3-5 months is unacceptable for any  
business – particularly businesses that are operating on shoestring budgets  
already, yet are still providing some of the most needed services to  
vulnerable populations. We do not consider this an appropriate quality of

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Norwalk / Arc of Southington / Tri County Arc, Columbia / Waterbury Arc / WeCAHR, Danbury

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life for the people in their care when Providers must withhold or even permanently cut services because payments are not being made promptly.

We are very well aware of the very difficult economic climate the State of Connecticut finds itself in. And this Committee is very well aware that our concerns regarding appropriately funding Private Providers are not new.

As advocates – representatives from The Arc of Connecticut have been contacting the changing administrations in the Governor’s office and coming before different Legislative Committees for over 20 years, describing the plight of desperate individuals and families and how important services are to them. We have urged you to appropriate higher COLAs to the Private Providers. This increased funding would allow them to provide the necessary funding for programs which would allow them continue to operate, and also to be able to provide livable wages to retain decent staff members. Now we are asking you to help the Private Provider sector to *at least* get paid on time in order to be able to keep doing the valuable work they need to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.