

Testimony of Walter L. Glomb, Jr.
to the Public Health and Human Services Committees
on September 3, 2009

Good morning, My name is Walter Glomb. I am a resident of Ellington Connecticut and I am the very proud father of a young adult who has Down syndrome and is a consumer in the Department of Developmental Services.

I am here to speak in favor of the privatization of the home and community based services, including residential services, at the Department.

Like my son here, I will begin with reference to my testimony to the Appropriations Committee at the beginning of the year. I said then that I believed the private non-profit providers were the most cost-effective option available to us at this time of limited budgets and long waiting lists. Today I reiterate that belief. The private providers have given us a more agile and a more robust system of care. The private providers give us more choices that enable consumers to determine the nature of their supports and thereby live with greater dignity.

Therefore I encourage you to please put our tax dollars into the private provider system.

Now... the topic today is labor so I would also like to state that we need fair levels of compensation to insure a sustainable system of services. Labor must be treated fairly in the process of privatization. That means rates for services that enable the private providers to retain quality direct service staff for our family members. With fair rates in the private sector, workers should have no fear of privatization. The need for services is there. The jobs are there. It is the responsibility of the state to insure fair wages for these critical human service workers. The continued operation of archaic state institutions is not the solution to fair wages.

Please, support the privatization of human services and enable the Department the pay fair rates to the private, non-profit employers who serve our families.