



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities

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**Testimony before Committee on Human Services**  
**Re: H.B. #6609, “(Raised) An Act Establishing a Community Provider**  
**Rescue Fund Account and Community-Based Services Commission”**  
**and**  
**H. B. #1060, “(Raised) An Act Establishing an Account for the Benefit of**  
**Supported Living in Group Homes”**  
**and**  
**H.B. #6610, (Raised) An Act Concerning Medicaid Income Limits for Aged,**  
**Blind, and Disabled Persons”**

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

Good morning Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, and Members of the Human Services Committee. I am Lynn Warner the 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.

I am here today to testify in support of **House Bill #6609, “(Raised) An Act Establishing a Community Provider Rescue Fund Account and Community-Based Services Commission,** as it directly impacts the appropriate funding to stabilize the network of Private Providers in Connecticut – thereby keeping all of the individuals and families that they serve safe, healthy, and served with the highest quality of care.

For years the private providers have served these individuals with dignity and quality and yet for years private providers have been consistently under funded. In addition, they have been continuously subjected to unfunded mandates, lack of adequate cost of living increases and extensive rate changes. Make no mistake, the Private Providers **can** do the very same work that their State paid counterparts do, BUT they can not do it for nothing! Establishing a stable and appropriate

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funding stream which includes consistent increases will keep the private providers system as the primary option for care. The establishment of a commission to study long-term funding solutions for the network of private providers through a variety of sophisticated activities will be essential for their survivability and growth.

Today, Private Providers are barely being funded enough to provide for *basic* health and safety needs of the individuals in their care, and we fear that the quality of life for these individuals will decline due to staff turnover, reduced service hours, and just the lack of involvement in their communities due to the consistent and chronic under funding.

The Arc of Connecticut also supports **H. B. #1060, “(Raised) An Act Establishing an Account for the Benefit of Supported Living in Group Homes”** as a large number of the people with intellectual disabilities currently reside or will eventually reside in groups homes and they deserve to have the highest quality of care on every level that is funded appropriately and accurately – for all the same reasons previously stated. We encourage this Bill to be voted on favorably.

Additionally, we would like to go on record supporting the favorable passage of **H.B. #6610, (Raised) An Act Concerning Medicaid Income Limits for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Persons”** We believe it would be extremely beneficial to use a less restrictive methodology in determining the income limit when making Medicaid eligibility determinations for people who have intellectual disabilities. Clearly – this would be a wonderful way to enhance their quality of life and their ability to be more active in their individual communities. It would be wonderful step for Connecticut to not insist that people be destitute in order to receive the services they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.