



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities
and related developmental disabilities

43 Woodland Street, Suite 260, Hartford, CT 06105

Telephone: 860-246-6400 Facsimile: 860-246-6406

Website: www.arcofct.org

February 6, 2009

Executive Director
Lynn C. Warner

President
Ken Cholewinski
SARAH Seneca
Gulford

First Vice President
Diane Aubin
The Arc of New London County
Norwich

Second Vice President
Barry Sheffel
Arc of Meriden-Wallingford
Meriden

Secretary
Imelda Reno
Arc of Farmington Valley
Canton

Treasurer
Anthony Recck
Futures, Inc.
Middletown

Immediate Past President
Dawn Lazaroff
Tri-County Arc
Columbia

Contributions are
tax-deductible

Testimony before Committee on Public Health
Re: H.B 6309 (Raised), "An Act Concerning Administration of the
Department of Developmental Services"

by

Lynn Warner, Executive Director, The Arc of Connecticut

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public
Health Committee:

Good morning. 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 throughout the State that provide supports, services, and
advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

I am here today to submit testimony regarding raised House Bill 6309,
"An Act Concerning Administration of the Department of
Developmental Services."

The Arc of Connecticut would like to go on record stating that while it
appears that most of the proposed changes regarding the administration
of DDS stated in this Bill are benign to the individuals who are funded
by DDS as well as pose no major impact on our 23 Local Chapters or
the other Private Providers, there is an area where The Arc of
Connecticut and its Local Chapters, who provide Birth to Three or
early intervention services, are concerned.

In the current Section 3, Subsection e, the proposed language change is
to eliminate the Legislative oversight – including OPM and the
Committees of cognizance such as Appropriations and Public Health –
of the expenditures for administrative services regarding the Birth to
Three services. It would also eliminate the need for justification in
writing as to why administrative expenditures exceeded twenty per cent
of the contracted amount. The lead agency (DDS) would no longer
have that oversight.

The Arc/Connecticut, Inc. Member Chapters: Futures, Inc., Middletown / Greater Enfield Arc / Family Options, Watertown / Arc of Farmington
Valley / Friends of New Milford, Inc. / Litchfield County Arc / LOV-Arc, Westbrook / MARC, Inc., Manchester / MARC:
Community Resources, Portland / Arc of Meriden-Wallingford / Arc of Greater New Haven / Arc/New London County / Options, Unlimited / Arc
of Plainville / Arc of Quinebaug Valley / SARAH Inc., Gulford / SARAH Seneca Residential Services / SARAH Tuxis Residential Services / STAR,
Norwalk / Arc of Southington / Tri County Arc, Columbia / Waterbury Arc / WeCAHR, Danbury

Affiliated with The Arc of the United States

The Arc of Connecticut and our Local Chapters are certainly not advocating for more bureaucracy, but would like this Committee to remain mindful of the families, especially the children, who are being served by these very valuable programs. They deserve to know that the highest qualities of services are being provided to their children through the most efficient spending practices of the lead agency. Oversight and reporting are certainly ways of better ensuring such quality.

The Arc of Connecticut would also like to caution this Committee about eliminating a process of checks and balances for a State Agency – especially where funding is concerned – particularly in these economic times.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.