

Testimony before the Public Health Committee

HB 5448 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

By Kathleen Stauffer, Executive Director The Arc of New London County

Good morning Members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Kathleen Stauffer and I am the Executive Director of The Arc of New London County. I am here this morning to testify on **HB 5448 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

Specifically I am respectfully requesting that Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 17a-217a of the general statutes be repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

Please turn your attention to subsection a, number 1:

The advisory committee shall be composed of twelve members as follows: (1) The director of Camp Harkness, who shall serve ex-officio, one member representing the Southeastern Connecticut Association for Developmental Disabilities, one member representing the Southbury Training School, one member representing the Association for Retarded Citizens of New London County, one consumer representing persons who use the camp on a residential basis and one member representing parents or guardians of persons who use the camp, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor;

With all due respect, The Arc of New London County requests a change in language for this Act that accurately reflects our name. As recent news reports would indicate, and as life experience for all of our members and the approximately 500 citizens we serve here in Southeastern Connecticut reflects, the use of the word "Retarded" in all references is offensive and unacceptable at all times.

Specifically, we request the language be changed to read:

The advisory committee shall be composed of twelve members as follows: (1) The director of Camp Harkness, who shall serve ex-officio, one member representing the Southeastern Connecticut Association for Developmental Disabilities, one member representing the Southbury Training School, one member representing the Arc of New London County, one consumer representing persons who use the camp on a residential basis and one member representing parents or guardians of persons who use the camp, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor;

Thank you!