



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities  
and related developmental disabilities

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March 5, 2010

**Testimony before The Appropriations Committee**

**SB 355 AN ACT CONCERNING CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.**

by

**Leslie Simoes, Assistant Executive Director/The Arc of  
Connecticut**

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, and Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Leslie Simoes and I am the Assistant Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 58-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 this afternoon to testify in favor of:

**SB 355 AN ACT CONCERNING CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.**

Subsection (a) of section 17b-244 of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes discusses room and board rates paid to private providers including private providers who provide services for persons with developmental disabilities. SB 355 amends this statute so a "higher rate can be paid to providers if capitol improvement required by the Commissioner of Developmental Services for the health or safety of the residents made to the facility during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010 or June 30, 2011."

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

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The Arc of Connecticut supports this amendment for a variety of reasons. Specifically because providers are not often reimbursed for costs of improvements made to their facilities but the providers do the improvements because it is necessary for the well-being and quality of life for those they support. This amendment will go a long way assisting providers with needed fiscal expenditures and those saved dollars could, in turn, be used to make the lives of individuals they serve better.