

Testimony of Thomas Sobocinski,

President of Board of Directors, Disability Resource Center of
Fairfield County (DRCFC), a Center for Independent Living

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Members of the Sub-committee—the organization I help lead was cut in 2009-10 and the Governor has proposed eliminating all state funding. She has indicated that federal stimulus funds be used; the problem is that those funds are for *programs*, not for needed infrastructure (rent, computers, etc.) support.

I understand that the state is facing terrible budgetary problems—and we are willing to do our share in arresting the deficit; but to zero us out of the budget makes no sense.

We serve the disabled of coastal Fairfield County and as the attached sheet notes, we provide invaluable service—further, we provide that service at rates far less than state employees. Bottom line, Independent Living services hope to create more taxpayers, paying more taxes!

The reduced state funding will cause layoffs of people with disabilities—so, rather than retaining their taxes, we will create more unemployment.

I hope that you will see it possible to cut us as little as possible.

Thank you.