



# Memorandum

**Date of Hearing:** March 17, 2010

**Committee Name:** Committee on Government Administration & Elections

**Contact Information:** Pamela DonAroma  
Executive Director  
Futures, Inc

**Subject:** Testimony for the Record Senate Bill No. 422  
"An Act Concerning the Department of Administrative Services'  
Pilot Program"

My name is Pam DonAroma and I am the Executive Director with Futures, Inc. I am testifying for the record on Raised Bill No. 422.

I support Raised Bill 422. It allows individuals with disabilities, the opportunity to utilize their work skills in real employment situations, enabling them to create a work history, and become productive members of society. The legislation that first made this possible was Public Act 06-129. Nothing can compare with the personal satisfaction and self-pride of having a decent job that pays a living wage and provides a sense of meaning to ones life. By continuing this program, we will enable more individuals with disabilities the opportunity to reach this goal. For many, without this bill these opportunities would not exist.

Futures, Inc is a non-profit agency providing services throughout Connecticut. We offer unique training and mentoring programs that provide individualized support services to help adults with disabilities live, grow, and prosper within their own home communities. Futures is a participant in the State Preferred Purchasing Program through the Connecticut Community Providers Association. We have placed 24 people with disabilities, making \$12-15 per hour in standard wage janitorial positions.

To ensure the momentum stays strong and new opportunities are created, I strongly encourage the continuation of this pilot program. For many, the programs success, which its participants have achieved, has reduced their dependency on entitlement program such as Food Stamps, rent subsidies, welfare and converted several from tax-burdens to tax payers.

In addition, the integration of individuals with disabilities into a typical workforce has fostered a wonderful relationship between a non-profit agency and a major employer in Connecticut. Together we have been able to create a win, win situation for consumers of our agency and the employer.

In closing, the continuation of this pilot project benefits individuals with disabilities, non-profit agencies, employers, and tax payers. Please support raised Bill No. 422.