TESTIMONY before the Government Administration and Elections Committee

3/17/10

Barbara Albert

Good morning/afternoon members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, also to everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, renter in Hartford, registered voter, Advocate for Human Rights. I have several chronic illnesses, some visible, most not. I'm on disability, Medicare and Medicaid, and do volunteer work when able.

This is my testimony concerning SB #424, a raised Bill, "An Act Concerning Agency Consolidation and the Creation of the Health and Human Services Consolidation Steering Committee.

In my opinion, combining Public Health, Developmental Services, Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Social Services is disturbing. Disturbing that someone even thought of it. Disturbing because I'm a client with two of these agencies, continuing to jump through hoops, and still not receiving appropriate help. I've felt for a long time that I haven't just 'fallen through a crack', I've disappeared into an abyss. I know I'm not alone. Just because I haven't been in a psych hospital or detox for almost 10 years, does not mean I'm all better, because I am so not.

I believe consolidating these five agencies would be disasterous to many human beings and the overburdened systems that already exist.

Mahatma Gandi said, "The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still, small voice that is conscience."

Please do not support raised bill S.B. #424.

Thank you for listening.