

Evangeline Sargent
Oakdale, CT

Evangeline Sargent SB424 Testimony

Good morning members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Evangeline Sargent and I am a registered voter from Oakdale, CT.

I am testifying about Senate Bill 424 (Raised) An Act Concerning Agency Consolidation and the Creation of the Health and Human Services Consolidation Steering Committee. Combining the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Children and Families, Department of Developmental Services, Department of Public Health, and Department of Social Services into the Department of Human Services will not be effective at all.

All of these agencies are large enough on their own and consolidating them into one will create a mess of epic proportions. Each agency has its own specialty and should not be mixed.

For example, how would a Department of Public Health employee be able to work with a Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services client? How would a Department of Developmental Services employee be able to do the Department of Social Services person's job? Also the clients of each agency are not always interchangeable. Remember we are people, not folders or numbers.

The person who wrote this testimony is a 30 year old former Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and current Department of Social Services client. I would not be pleased to have someone not qualified to helping me.

Also, children require different and more specialized mental health treatment and therefore are not appropriate to Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

I am coming to you as a voter, resident, President of the Southeastern Mental Health Authority Community Advisory Board, and National Alliance on Mental Illness Southeast affiliate board member. Thank you for your time.