



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities

43 Woodland Street, Suite 260, Hartford, CT 06105

Telephone: 860-246-6400 Facsimile: 860-246-6406

Website: www.arcofct.org

President
Diane Aubin
The Arc of New London County
Norwich

February 23, 2010

Executive Director
Lynn C. Warner

First Vice President
Imelda Reno
The Arc of Farmington Valley
Canton

Testimony before The Human Services Committee
HB 5145 AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT
OF FEDERAL FUNDS RECEIVED BY STATE AGENCIES.

Second Vice President
Barry Sheffel
The Arc of Meriden-Wallingford
Meriden

by

Leslie Simoes, Assistant Executive Director/The Arc of Connecticut

Secretary
Lori Baer
The Arc of Litchfield County
Torrington

Good morning Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, and Members of the Human Services 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.

Treasurer
Anthony Recck
Futures, Inc.
Middletown

I am here this morning to testify in favor of **HB 5145 AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL FUNDS RECEIVED BY STATE AGENCIES.**

Immediate Past President
Ken Cholewinski
SARAH Seneca
Gullford

Contributions are
tax-deductible

It is important that Connecticut fully support the most vulnerable among our population whether they require acute medical care or long term care. In these uncertain economic times the state of Connecticut should develop a plan to capture more federal dollars. The larger the federal reimbursement, the larger is Connecticut's ability to provide the needed services and supports.

Specifically in The Department of Developmental Services, there are a number of ways the state could better utilize federal dollars. The first being services provided outside the state of Connecticut. Medicaid will only reimburse Connecticut for services being delivered in Connecticut. There are approximately 40 children receiving services in other states and the legislature should look at how we can provide these children with in state supports. The legislature could also look at adults being served out of state to see if there are ways to serve them in state so we can maximize federal reimbursement.

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

Affiliated with The Arc of the United States

The second suggestion for maximizing federal dollars is the approval of the autism waiver DDS is creating. The Arc of Connecticut urges the legislature to support DDS and collaborating state agencies to approve the new waiver for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The third suggestion is "Medicaid for the Working Disabled". Previously DDS was slow to file for waiver coverage for those on "Medicaid for the Working Disabled". The legislature should look into the process to assure that we as a state are doing all we can to use these federal dollars.

The final suggestion The Arc has to maximize federal dollars is the formula for FMAP. The federal government uses an arcane formula to determine the percentage of each state's Medicaid payments that are reimbursed. Connecticut receives only the minimum payment of 50% while other states receive as much as an 80% reimbursement. The formula involves the square of the average income in a state and the square of the average income in the country. The Arc of Connecticut suggests that a look be taken at this formula with the intent to make sure the legislature is capturing all the dollars we can in Connecticut.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify today.