



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities
and related developmental disabilities

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March 12, 2010

Executive Director
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Testimony before Committee on Public Health
Re: H.B 5448 (Raised), "An Act Concerning Administration of the
Department of Developmental Services"

by
Leslie Simoes, Assist. Executive Director, The Arc of Connecticut

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public
Health Committee:

I am Leslie Simoes, 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 throughout the State that provide supports, services, and
advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

I am here today to submit testimony regarding raised House Bill 5448,
"An Act Concerning Administration of the Department of
Developmental Services."

The Arc of Connecticut would like to go on record stating that while it
appears that most of the proposed changes regarding the administration
of DDS stated in this Bill are benign to the individuals who are funded
by DDS as well as pose no major impact on our 23 Local Chapters or
the other Private Providers, there is an area where The Arc of
Connecticut and its Local Chapter, The Arc of New London County,
are concerned.

In the current **Section 8, Subsection a**, we are respectfully requesting
this Committee to change the name the Association for Retarded
Citizens of New London County to its legal and correct name The Arc
of New London County. It is inappropriate to not make this change
and to continue using an outdated name with a word that is considered
pejorative to so many people.

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
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Quinebaug Valley / SARAH Inc., Guilford / 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 Arc of Connecticut and our Local Chapters are certainly not advocating for more bureaucracy, but would like this Committee to remain mindful of the families, especially the children, who are being served by these very valuable programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony with you today.