



Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living
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...Working for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities
through Centers for Independent Living

Testimony of Gary Waterhouse, Executive Director

CT Association of Centers for Independent Living

March 4, 2011

Appropriations Sub-Committee Public Hearing

Department of Social Services Budget

Preserve Jobs for people with disabilities, Protect our economy

The Governor's proposed budget line for Centers for Independent Living (CILs) cuts the FY 2010/2011 budget line by 15% or \$96,589 in FY 2011/12 and FY 2012/13, we understand the need to reduce spending in these difficult economic times. We also want to describe the value CILs bring to the State of Connecticut as Non-Profit Organizations.

Most CIL staff are people with disabilities.

CILs need state funding to provide *infrastructure* (rent, utilities, computers, telephones, administrative support) to support state grants such as:

- Money Follows the Person (MFP)
- Emergency Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Program
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
- Assistive/Rehabilitation Technology (*Acquisition & Demonstration*)
- Ticket to Work Activities (*Soc.Sec. return to work incentives*)
- Pre-Apprentice Programs (*prepare people to work*)
- Resource Actualizing Mobility (RAMP)
- Housing Opportunities for People Living with HIV/AIDS

The above grants are designed to reduce state Medicaid costs and increase the independence of Connecticut citizens.

The work done by the *Centers for Independent Living* demonstrates the abilities of people with disabilities to perform vital business functions for the federal and state government.

Center for Disability Rights
764A Campbell Ave.
West Haven, CT 06516
V 203-934-7077
TDD 203-934-7079

Disabilities Network of
Eastern CT
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VTDD 860-823-1898

Disability Resource Center
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