

Testimony of Walter L. Glomb, Jr.
Health and Hospitals Appropriations Subcommittee
March 2, 2011

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Candelaria and members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Walter Glomb. I am a resident of Ellington. I am a parent of a young adult who has Down syndrome and who depends on public supports to live, work and attend school in our community.

I am here today to tell you how my son and his peers benefit from – and depend on – the Home and Community Based Services, especially the Employment and Day Services, that are provided by the Department of Developmental Services through its network of private, non-profit agencies.

These services enable individuals who have intellectual disabilities to live in their communities, rent apartments, go to work, earn a living, continue their educations – even pay taxes.

Without these public supports, my son and his peers would not be able to work. They would not be able to continue their educations. They would most likely be homebound with little to do and their parents or caregivers would be unable to work or they would be dependent on other forms of public support.

In other words, lives would be wasted and there would still be costs to the public.

Lives wasted at great expense.

The private non-profit agencies that provide most of these services have endured decades of chronic under funding that has already begun to compromise the health of the system. Flat funding will require more endurance. Cuts to this budget would be devastating.

We know that state spending must be reduced and that all departments, including the Department of Developmental Services, will have to operate with limited budgets. In the face of these limited budgets, efficiency is paramount. Within the Department of Developmental Services, the private provider system serves more individuals with less money than the legacy institutions that are still operated by the state.

Please remember also that these community-based services are provided through the Medicaid waiver program for which Connecticut will receive 50% reimbursement from the federal government – so if these programs are cut, the state would lose federal funding.

Please provide the Department of Developmental Services with adequate funding for home and community based employment, day services and supported living for my son and his peers.

Thank you.