

March 1, 2011

Human Services Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Craig Sears

Wilton, CT

My name is Craig Sears; I am a person with a brain injury speaking up. I am here today to speak in support of HB 5893: An Act Concerning Home and Community Based Services for Persons with Acquired Brain Injury. I was in a motor vehicle accident in 1987, leaving me with a traumatic brain injury (TBI). After suffering a brain injury, as most survivors do, I have been faced with many new and overwhelming challenges in everyday living. As a survivor of a brain injury, my journey made me all-too familiar with the difficulties of individuals and families working through the arbitrary system of care. In the 1990s I became a spokesman for the Brain Injury Association of Connecticut, advocating for Connecticut's Acquired Brain Injury Medicaid Waiver, implemented in 1999. This waiver allows the state to permit organizations to provide non-medical services to people with TBI enabling them to live in the community outside of nursing homes and institutions. People should not be forced to enter nursing homes or other institutions in order to gain access to the Waiver. This legislation would help assure that ALL those with brain injuries who need the ABI Medicaid Waiver program have equal access.

In an effort to advocate for myself and all those individuals who are protected by the established legislation which is found within the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI Medicaid Waiver) Program I am asking for your support of HB 5893.