

March 8, 2011

To: Human Services  
Re: Raised Bill 6486

Hello Senator Musto, Representative Tereyak, Senator Coleman,  
Representative Morris and Members of the Committee

My name is Mary-Ann Langton, and I live in West Hartford. I am here today to urge you to **oppose Raised Bill 6486**. For over 25 years, I hired and managed my personal assistants that enable me to live productively in community.

I am not here to debate my beliefs of unions but rather to argue that personal assistants should not become part of the union. The occupations of personal assistants are very different than other jobs because it is based on teamwork and mutual respect for each other. People with disabilities have various personal needs and outlook on life so, therefore, training needs to be done by the people with disabilities and not by the professionals.

A Personal Care Attendant Quality Workforce Council would corrupt a system that is going well. New requirements and regulations would cause more barriers to people with disabilities. Higher wages for the personal assistants would mean less hours for people with disabilities because employees are paid by Medicaid Waivers with financial caps. Workforce will shrink because personal assistants do not want to pay into an union.

SEIU has not reached out to advocates with disabilities at meetings but they approached their personal assistants. Therefore, personal assistants have been misinformed.