



"Enhancing the effectiveness of disability activism by organizing and empowering individuals, families, groups and organizations"

# Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative

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## Human Services Committee

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

1:30 pm

My name is Stan Kosloski and I am the Executive Director of the CT Disability Advocacy Collaborative, a statewide, cross disability organization representing the interests of children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. I am here to speak in favor of SB 297 and in opposition to HB 6486.

SB 297, AN ACT CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MEDICAID STATE PLAN UNDER SECTION 1915(i) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO PROVIDE HOME CARE SERVICES, directs DSS to pursue a 1915(i) amendment of the Medicaid state plan. It is designed to achieve the objective of improving access to home and community-based services (HCBS) for individuals with disabilities and older adults by:

- overcoming waiver "silos" by utilizing non-financial eligibility criteria that relate to functional limitations as opposed to age, diagnosis, condition or disability;
- expanding coverage for otherwise eligible individuals who are currently waitlisted for service under the various waivers (e.g. ABI, PCA); and
- enhancing federal match for individuals whose services are currently funded exclusively out of state funds

The Governor's proposal to expand the MFP program is welcomed and needed, and will have a dramatic effect on those in nursing facilities. It does not, however, address the needs of those individuals who are at home and in need of supports to maintain their independence. SB 297 will keep them at home, address the waiting list problem, and bring additional Medicaid funds to the State.

HB 6486, AN ACT CONCERNING HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT WORKFORCE COUNCIL, is being pursued aggressively by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), not by the ultimate beneficiaries, individuals with disabilities. It has the potential to do great harm to the special relationship between the employer with a disability and his or her personal care attendant. That relationship is an unusual and intimate one, based on mutual respect, teamwork, and concern for one another's well being. When an employer has trusting relationships with a group of personal assistants, good things happen. Supports are provided consistently. There is good backup. Turnover is reduced. In HB 6486 the SEIU wants to create a "workforce council" that will be costly to the state and will ultimately lead to the unionization of personal assistants. The bottom line: this is a case of David and Goliath, and I respectfully request the Human Services Committee come down on the side of David.

The Arc of CT

The National MS Society/  
CT Chapter

Brain Injury Assn. of CT

Family Support Network

NAMI of CT

Disability Resource Center  
Of Fairfield Cnty.

CT-KASA (Kids As Self  
Advocates)

Business Leadership  
Network

Office of Protection and  
Advocacy

Commission on Aging

Dep't. of Developmental  
Services/Self Advocacy