

TO: HUMAN SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
RE: CDHI MERGER BILL

From: Gloria White, Deaf Commission Member, Preston, CT  
Date: MARCH 14, 2011

I am SENDING IN THIS WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO GO ON RECORD AGAINST THE GOVERNOR'S SB1012- AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE CONSOLIDATION OF CDHI INTO DSS AND SUBSEQUENTLY BRS.

I have been involved with the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired ( CDHI) since its inception in 1974 on and off as a Commission member and I cannot make it to testify in person at this public hearing, SCHEDULED FOR March 15th , 2011 at 10AM in Room 2A of the LOB.

I want this testimony on record as supporting the COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED to REMAIN as an INDEPENDENT STATE AGENCY because of the unique people that we serve, meaning the Deaf and Hearing Impaired in the entire state.

This population that resides in the State of Connecticut has NEEDS that cannot be met by the other agencies that provide services, especially DSS and BRS.

THE COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED(CDHI) HAS SHOWN DOWN THROUGH THE MANY YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE THAT IT IS A VIABLE, VALUABLE, SUCCESSFUL, STATE WIDE AGENCY FULL FILLING ITS MISSION OF ADVOCACY TO ITS DEAF CONSUMERS.

THE COMMISSION members are deaf consumers, the President of the Connecticut Council Serving the Deaf, the Executive Director of American School for the Deaf, and a representative from the Dept of Education plus parents of deaf children in various educational programs for the deaf and most IMPORTANTLY have REPRESENTATIVES from all of the other states agencies ON THIS COMMISSION, because DEAFNESS is PRESENT in all of them too.

THIS COMMISSION has the expertise and resources in which these representatives can bring any problem involving deafness to the meetings and expect some kind of help or suggestions or resolutions and bring back to their respective agencies for proper implementation.

This Commission should have ALL OTHER SERVICES THAT DEAL directly WITH DEAFNESS UNDER ITS SUPERVISION. This is to ensure that the deaf clients or deaf-blind clients from other service agencies are receiving the proper ,COMMUNICATIONS and programing implementations to further their welfare and well being as a fully functioning Adult deaf persons.

THIS COMMISSION is completely and fully accessible to all means of communications for deaf and hearing impaired people which makes this the ideal agency to go to when in need of services.

THIS COMMISSION'S office is on a Bus Line so deaf clients who do not have a car can reach the office and receive much proper needed services. Additionally it has convenient FREE parking SPACES.

THIS COMMISSION saves the state money by fulfilling its mission as a state wide advocacy commission to the deaf and hearing impaired by helping deaf people to improve their lives in the various state agencies.

THIS COMMISSION, a very small agency, is in charge of the INTERPRETER REQUEST SERVICE, EMERGENCY INTERPRETER REQUESTS, COURT INTERPRETER REQUESTS AND THE INTERPRETERS CREDENTIALS.

THIS COMMISSION HAS THE POWER TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ITS DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED POPULATION.

THIS COMMISSION has proven over the years that it was and still is a very, very valuable agency, INDEPENDENTLY KNOWN with a separate MISSION.

Since we identify with deaf and hearing impaired consumers, we need to be a separate agency and found quickly and not under ANY HUGE Dept, ie. DDS / BRS.

We definitely are not a SOCIAL SERVICE agency and should not be

identified with one as such!

We definitely are not a REHABILITATION AGENCY and should not be identified with one as such!

THIS Commission with its very limited budget has done a most remarkable noteworthy job since 1974..... thus in closing, once again, I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU LEAVE THE COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED INTACT AND AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY!

THANK YOU,

Sincerely yours,

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