



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities
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Testimony before The Judiciary Committee

by

Peg Dignoti, retired Executive Director of the Arc of Connecticut

**Raised Bill No. 6647 Concerning the Appointment of Guardians Ad
Litem to assist disabled individuals in court proceedings**

April 8, 2011

I am Peg Dignoti, retired Executive Director of the Arc of CT, a statewide non-profit advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of The Arc in strong opposition to Raised Bill 6647. This bill would extend to persons with disabilities the right to the appointment of a guardian ad litem by the Probate Court, but since the law already provides for such an appointment for persons who are minor, incompetent or unborn, we see no need for the designation of an additional group. In fact, we are certain that many competent folks who have disabilities would find such a law not only unnecessary but offensive.

We respectfully request that this bill not be reported out of Committee.

Thank you.