

Memo

To: Judiciary Committee
From: Robert J. Brothers, Jr., Executive Director
Date: April 8, 2011
Re: HB 6647, AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIANS AD LITEM TO ASSIST DISABLED INDIVIDUALS
IN COURT PROCEEDINGS

The Commission **OPPOSES** HB 6647, AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANS AD LITEM TO ASSIST DISABLED INDIVIDUALS IN COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Although well intentioned, the name of the bill "An Act Concerning the Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem to Assist Disabled Individuals in Court Proceedings" is really a misnomer. A Guardian Ad Litem acts in a person's best interests rather than representing or assisting them. This is different than an Attorney that is appointed to represent the individual.

This bill allows a Judge to appoint a Guardian Ad Litem for physically disabled individual who has no mental incapacity. This promotes stereotypes that disabled people are incapable of knowing what is in their own best interests.