



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities
and related developmental disabilities

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Testimony

The Arc of Connecticut

On

Raised Bill No. 6647

Concerning the Appointment of Guardians Ad Litem to assist disabled individuals in court proceedings

April 8, 2011

The Arc of Connecticut is an advocacy organization committed to protecting the rights of people with intellectual, cognitive, and developmental disabilities and to promoting opportunities for their full inclusion in the life of their communities.

Persons with a disability are members of each community in the state of Connecticut. As such they may come before the courts on the full range of issues dealt with by the courts. Many of those advocated for by The Arc of Connecticut, like persons with other disabilities, are competent to handle the issues of everyday living and do not have a guardian for those purposes.

However, some may occasionally need assistance when facing the complexities of a court proceeding. Under the current law they can be considered incompetent for this purpose and granted a guardian ad litem, if necessary. We see no need for the changes contained in Bill 6647.

The Arc of Connecticut, therefore, opposes Raised Bill No. 6647.