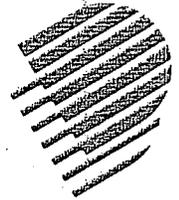


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Testimony of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Before the Select Committee on Children  
February 3, 2011

Good afternoon Senator Urban, Representative Fawcett, Senator Musto and members of the Select Committee on Children. My name is Margaret Cohan. I am here representing the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities supports HB 6225, AN ACT REQUIRING A RESULTS-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD ON OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF CHILDREN.

The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities is a Governor appointed body of persons with disabilities, parents of children with developmental disabilities and agency representatives that serve people with developmental disabilities. We receive federal funding from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to implement the Developmental Disabilities Act and to that end we promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community living with our Council directed staff activities or grants.

Raised Bill No. 6225 requires a Report Card under the Results Based Accountability framework on Out of State residential facilities to which CT children have been sent. The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities recommends changing the question "Is Anyone Better Off?" to "Are Those Children Better Off?" to the Results Based Accountability framework for this report card.

We need measurable, reproducible evidence that these children are. The data needs to demonstrate that Aversives, Restraints, and Seclusion are used only to protect these children from themselves and others, and that methods employed have reduced or eliminated the use of them over time. The Council feels that children with disabilities who are away from the contact of guardians, families, and friends are at a heightened risk of the use of Aversives, Restraint and Seclusion. 367 children in out-of-state facilities are currently being visited by Department of Children and Families social workers every six months but only family or guardians have the relationship with these children in which these children would feel safe enough to disclose their experiences in these facilities. Some of these children may be non verbal. We also recommend that the Report Card ask on how many times Aversives, Restraint and Seclusion have been used. Since these are Connecticut's children the report should keep track of the use of seclusion in restraint in conformity with existing CT state law 46a 15-154 and State Department of Education Regulations including mandatory procedural safeguards for seclusion/restraint provided to parents/surrogates annually at PPT meetings.

The Council has long history of promoting the use of positive behavioral supports and interventions in place of the use of Aversives, Restraint and Seclusion with all children with disabilities in all settings. In September 2010 we sent every school district in CT a letter requesting information on their use of Restraint and Seclusion and also requested information on children who are placed out of district and out of state and who placed them. So far we have received 70 responses. We will continue to pursue responses from remaining school districts. We will be happy to share the data with members of the Committee.

Thank you very much. I will be happy take questions.