



February 9, 2011

Testimony before Committee on Public Health
Re: S.B. #885 (Raised), “An Act Permitting Inquiry to the Department of
Developmental Services’ Abuse and Neglect Registry for Charitable Organizations
which Recruit Volunteers to Work with Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.”

by
Lynn Warner, Executive Director, The Arc of Connecticut

Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

I am Lynn Warner, the Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 59-year-old statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. We have 23 local chapters throughout the State that provide supports, services, and advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

I am testifying today in strong support of **S.B. 885, “An Act Permitting Inquiry to the Department of Developmental Services’ Abuse and Neglect Registry for Charitable Organizations which Recruit Volunteers to Work with Persons with Intellectual Disabilities”**, because it works towards keeping people with intellectual disabilities in Connecticut safer and better protected from individuals intent to do them harm. It is just common sense to keep those persons with substantiated abuse and neglect allegations against these individuals as far away as possible from potential victims.

Additionally, as S.B. 885 is written, safeguards have been established from allowing organizations to misuse the registry, including a necessary approval process from the Commissioner of the Department. This added layer of protection only increases the safety and security of the people with intellectual disabilities, the charitable organizations, and of DDS.

On behalf of The Arc of Connecticut, the people we advocate for and their families, I urge you to vote favorably on S.B. 885.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.