



February 9, 2011

**Testimony before Committee on Public Health**  
**Re: H.B #6278 (Raised), “An Act Concerning the Department of Developmental Services Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Service”**

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 support of **H.B 6278, “An Act Concerning the Department of Developmental Services Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Service”**. H.B. 6278 will not only clean up outdated statute information, but more importantly, will aid statutes that direct the Department of Developmental Services to become more aligned with current respectful language and terminology for the people they support and serve. These changes also mirror the initiatives set forth by the Federal Government. In the fall of 2010, Congress voted to change the wording in their health, education, and labor laws related to people with disabilities thereby eliminating disrespectful language and terminology. By changing how we talk about or refer to people with disabilities, we reinforce their rights and dignity as equal citizens in our society.

On behalf of The Arc of Connecticut, the people we advocate for and their families, I urge you to vote favorably on H.B. 6278.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.