

Good Afternoon, Chairs & Members of the Committees and visitors

My name is Lois Rosenwald and I am here today actually wearing several hats. The first, and always the most important I am a parent of a wonderful 33 year old man with Aspergers Syndrome. Second, I am the Executive Director of the CT Autism Spectrum Resource Center, a grassroots non-profit agency and last, I am past chair of the Advisory Council to the Autism Spectrum Division at The Department of Developmental Services. This is the Division that has coordinated services for our ASD Pilot Program that is now a permanent state program.

I'm here to tell you, in all of these roles, that I say yes to the waivers that are being proposed. Our Autism Spectrum adults are crying out for the services we have put in place, through the state ASD Pilot Program, our hope is that this waiver will allow us, over time, to add these folks. It is difficult to have developed the Pilot Program with services that work and not be able to offer these services to more than 50 people. Particularly, when folks are so desperately in need of this specific type of intervention.

I want to urge you, in these most difficult times, not to overlook this most forgotten population. I also would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to those of you who have supported our efforts for so long, it is much appreciated. Without your support we would not be in this place today.