



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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Testimony of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

Before the Public Health Committee

Presented by: James D. McGaughey

Executive Director

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Good morning and thank you for this opportunity to comment on several of the bills on your agenda today.

Our Office supports Raised Bill No. 885, AN ACT PERMITTING INQUIRY ACCESS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES. The registry lists the names of individuals who have been separated from employment with agencies that support people with intellectual disabilities due to substantiated allegations of abuse and serious neglect. While some people who are fired for abuse are also arrested and prosecuted, others are not. So the DDS registry is a valuable tool for screening candidates for employment because it lists individuals who do not have criminal records, but who have demonstrated by virtue of their conduct that they should not be working with people who could be readily victimized. It would be an equally valuable safeguard for programs that recruit volunteers who will be associated with people who have intellectual disabilities. This bill would allow those organizations to screen the names of potential volunteers against the names listed on the registry.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, I will try to answer them.