

February 20, 2012

Testimonial

House Bill 5014

Human Services: DSS, DCF, BUREAU OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

This testimony opposes H.B. 5014- AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013. This Bill affects the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. The impact will result in decrease in funding for Independent Living Centers in Connecticut.

Western Connecticut Association for Human Rights, Inc has been advocating for and with people with disabilities for over 30 years. WeCAHR was a result of grass roots advocacy movement deeply rooted in social justice and the civil and human rights of persons with disabilities. We have partnered with Independent Living Centers to identify community and public safety nets for individuals with disabilities. Programs administered by the ILC address matters pertaining to employment, living arrangements, homelessness and homelessness prevention, financial stability, medical equipment, and education and training. The centers work with a wide range of ages and disabilities.

The leadership and the staff of the Independent Living Centers have developed the knowledge, resources, network and ballast necessary to support individuals with disabilities to live safely and independently. The reduction in funding will directly impact the ability of Independent Living Centers to sustain programs that were created as a result of legislation. This translates to cuts in programs, reduction in staff positions, and the compromise of the overall structure of these Centers. I strongly urge the opposition of this Bill and ask that, if necessary, cuts be made in other areas that do not implicate programs created to protect individuals with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted by
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