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**Testimony re: RB5433: AN ACT CREATING A PROCEDURE FOR PCAs TO COLLECTIVELY
BARGAIN WITH THE STATE March 13, 2012**

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

I am Sheila Mulvey of Plantsville, Southington. As a parent and surrogate employer under the DDS direct services Medicaid waiver program, I am here today in strong opposition to Raised Bill 5433 which was the direct result of Executive Order #10.

The reasons for this legislation and the executive order are not based on any factual input which would prompt government or legislative action. There have been no studies, reviews or research efforts here in CT that would indicate a statistical basis or purpose for the need to change. Everything has been anecdotal without substance and in most cases information on other unionized states. Past public hearings as well as the meetings of the working group and the council established under Executive Order #10 prove this to be the case. Well, we are not just an "another" state. Our statutes are different, our geography is different and our approach to serving citizens with DD are different. We are **Connecticut** and in all the decades of years that I have been involved in the field of DD, I have been proud to represent our state locally and nationally because we enjoyed respect for many of our innovative and progressive systems.

As the one and only legal employer of my family members' program, I find that this action will erode the safety net of life sustaining services. May I quote a statement made by Kathy Bruni who is the Medical Care Administration Program Manager, ^{DDS} and governor appointed member of the Personal Care Attendant Working Group. This statement is included in the minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting of the working group. **Ms. Bruni " no matter how you look at it, when you increase benefits it increases the unit costs for an hour of service and it reduces the number of hours of service available to individuals who are most dependent on those hours. There is a cap on costs in CT waivers and the way statutes are written, services would be reduced for those who need them most. CT already has a provider registry and training. There are shortcomings, yes, but (she) is concerned of the impact on individual consumers."**

Please listen to this professional and experienced person for the sake of persons with disabilities and others affected by this action.

I urge you to stop this action from happening and to not risk the safety of those in need. The **losers** will be the **consumers** through reduced services; the **employees** by reduced hours of work; the **employees** who mostly are part-time by their own choice to supplement full time jobs and may lose their part time opportunity to work; the **employees** who have already lost their right to personal privacy, even though they are not employees or vendors of the state, and whose homes and families have been subjected to unwanted intrusions; the **employees** whose paychecks will be decreased automatically through union dues; and, the **federal and state statutory legal employer** whose powers will be limited and will not be anyway involved in setting wages for their employees which is a right and duty under state law.

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully, Sheila S. Mulvey

