

To: Program Review Committee

February 22, 2012

Thank you for letting me speak on behalf of people who are served by the Department of Developmental Services. My name is Jamie Lazaroff. I'M a person who happens to have a Developmental or Intellectual disability. I'M the Self-Advocate Coordinator at the Arc of Quinebaug Valley in Danielson, Connecticut and I also work with our state office to unify our voices. Our private provider system is the backbone of the Department of Developmental Services and where most people who happen to have an intellectual disability receive their services.

I support bill HB-5036 but would like to comment on questionable language in the proposed bill. The first is in section one it reads Admission to publicly operated facilities this could imply that all individuals are not capable of being served in communities that they live in by private non-profit provider agencies. I know that the Arc of Quinebaug Valley serves many people who came out of Mansfield Training School with a LON above 8 and are living comfortably in their community.

The second questionable language is in section two that reads professional judgment of the "Interdisciplinary Team" at STS. This committee has heard from guardians of Southbury residents that they think this statement is disrespectful. I think this "Interdisciplinary Team" should include the parent or guardian of the resident at all times when decisions of placement are being made. As parents, who knows your son or daughter better than yourself?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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