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of Fairfield County, Inc.

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This is a testimony of enormous personal and professional proportion. I am an Independent Living Advocate and Assistive Technology Advocate employed by one of the centers for independent living, the Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County in Stratford CT.

The Governors proposed budget eliminates entirely state funds for Centers of Independent Living !! The potential harm is catastrophic. We are asking for fund restoration

This center is available to the Disabled community of lower Fairfield County. I have assisted countless individuals during times of crisis in their lives. They frequently are in desperate need of housing ;understanding insurance issues that include applying for Medicare, Medicaid, Prescription Drug benefits, applying for Food Stamps as well as assisting them obtain durable medical equipment for those who would otherwise be without.

If this reduction in funding occurs hundreds of people with disabilities will be significantly impacted. Because we are here to empower people with disabilities to be self sufficient they in turn benefit from a myriad of services.

Without our services a large void to an enormous amount of individuals whose goal is to live independently will not be available to them.

We urge the appropriations committee to impress upon Governor Molloy to not eliminate any state funding to CT's Independent Living Centers. Ultimately our services return people to work, providing full inclusion into society and less dependence on government services.

Respectfully,

Dorothy C Healy
Independent Living Advocate/Assistive Technology Advocate

A Center for Independent Living

SERVING THESE FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITIES

Bridgeport • Darien • Easton • Fairfield • Greenwich • Monroe • New Canaan
Norwalk • Stamford • Stratford • Trumbull • Weston • Westport • Wilton