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**From:** Sandra J. Roberts <sandy@cdr-ct.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 4:52 PM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** Funding for Centers for Independent Living

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sandra Roberts and I currently live at 44 Orange St., Apt. 520, New Haven, CT 06510. I am a staff person with the Center for Disability Rights in West Haven, CT. I provide resources in youth transition and also pre-employment. I have been employed since 1990 with this organization and I also have a disability. Due to my number of years involvement with this organization in various capacities, I have been a personal witness to the changes we have brought about in many people's lives. The people we have saved from institutions or prevented from going into institutions. The people we assisted in making their homes accessible or lent needed equipment to. The people whose jobs we saved, helped find housing or assisted in applying for benefits.

Now I have the exciting role of mentoring young people with disabilities in high school or college age. Assisting them in learning the advocacy skills they may need now or in the future, teaching them the skills they may need for college or future employment. I have seen the benefits we do for people with disabilities, their families and the overall community. We have been a gateway for people of all disabilities and age groups. By providing the resources we have we have saved the State of Connecticut millions and millions of dollars. Please reconsider cutting our funding. I know of no other organizations out there that provide the resources we do.

I would be more than happy to speak to you personally. I can be reached at 203-668-9218.

Sincerely,

Sandra Roberts