

**DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
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Michelle M. Duprey Esq. • Director



Promoting Equality

February 22, 2013

The Honorable Toni N. Harp
State Senator
Legislative Office Building, Rm 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

The Honorable Toni E. Walker
State Representative
Legislative Office Building, Rm 2702
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Re: Proposed Cuts to the State's Centers for Independent Living

Dear Senator Harp and Representative Walker:

On behalf of the residents of New Haven, nearly 26% of our population, I request that you reject the proposed cuts to the State's Centers for Independent Living (CIL). The CIL provide valuable services to Connecticut's residents with disabilities and this loss of funds will have a substantial impact on the disability community.

The CIL provide a single point of contact for information on all disability-related services and programs in the state. Most people with disabilities don't have just one issue or concern, but often face multiple barriers, discrimination and have various needs. Rather than sending them to several agencies and non-profits, the CIL are able to provide valuable advocacy and continuity in what is an extremely complex system. Such continuity is vital to so many in the disability community that without the complete complement of services offered by the CIL I fear individuals with disabilities will suffer.

Not only do the CIL offer valuable services to individuals with disabilities but they function as essential element in the State's effort to move individuals with disabilities out of nursing homes and back into the community through the Money Follows the Person program. The Money Follows the Person program goals will be negatively impacted and puts at risk the approximately \$4.4 million dollar cost savings should the proposed cuts be implemented. These proposed cuts seem to be myopic and short sighted, saving money in the short term while costing the State substantially more in the long term. The human toll these cuts will have on individuals with disabilities is immeasurable.

For the above stated reasons I request that you reject the proposed cuts to the State's Centers for Independent Living as their services are critical to the disability community and will not reap long term savings.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle M. Duprey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Michelle M. Duprey