

Appropriations Committee Hearing
February 22, 2013
Testimony of Charles J. Smyth and Marc Anthony Gallucci, Esq.

Restore Cuts to Centers for Independent Living

We are Charles Smyth, President of the Board of Directors of Center for Disability Rights (CDR-CT) and Marc Anthony Gallucci, Esq., Executive Director of CDR-CT.

We urge you to reject the cuts proposed in the Governor's budget.

CDR-CT gets \$109,000 in State funding. We actually get a little less because of the Governor's rescission. We also get Federal Funding of about \$170,000 to do our CORE Independent Living Services.

With this funding, we not only empower people with disabilities to do things for themselves and wean them from expensive government social services, but we also prevent many people from needing to obtain the services in the first place.

In addition, this money is critical to the infrastructure that allows us to engage in Money Follows the Person, the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and other new and unique programs that not only give people their independence and dignity, but also save the State millions in the process.

Take away this funding, and MFP, ADRCs and other programs are not possible because none of them give us funding for office space, electricity, heat, supplies, and the equipment we need to work effectively such as telephones, computers, and copiers.

Let's be very clear: THERE IS NO FEDERAL FUNDING OR OTHER FUNDING THAT IS AVAILABLE TO OFFSET THIS CUT. THE FEDERAL FUNDING THAT YOU ARE BEING TOLD IS AVAILABLE IS FUNDING THAT WE ALREADY RECEIVE.

AT CDR-CT, if this cut stays, we will have to lay off one full time and one half time staff persons. If that happens, scores of consumers will

not have access to our services, and we will lose two folks with disabilities who are veteran and valuable contributors to our capacity.

Center for Disability Rights
764B Campbell Avenue
West Haven, CT. 06516
203-934-7077

MarcAnthony@CDR-CT.org