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Testimony in Support of Raised Bill 1023

Good morning Senator Slossberg and Representative Abercrombie and Senator Markley and Representative Wood and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Anne Ruwet and I am privileged to serve as the CEO of CCARC, Inc., a community private provider that serves people with disabilities in the Greater New Britain community. Our mission is to “make dreams happen” for people who are developmentally disabled that depend on our critical services inclusive of Residential, Educational and Training and Clinical. I am providing testimony to support Raised Bill 1023 and want to thank the committee for raising this important issue.

As you know the private provider community is the safety net for the State of Connecticut and it is critical to ensure that providers remain stable and fiscally secure in this very volital environment. Our clients and families depend on us for life and long term care. The revenue to provide our services is approximately 95% in state purchase of service contracts. The remaining 5% is made up with fundraising efforts from our supporting communities. The state has not increased those contracts in over 5 years yet the costs of providing those services continually increase – workers compensation, unemployment insurance, medical benefits, etc. As a private provider community we must operate our businesses in a cost effective and cost efficient manner because “people” depend on us. I often hear that we need to be creative with the funding we receive – I can assure you that we are extremely creative within a very challenging fiscal environment.

“We make dreams happen.”

I have been fortunate to serve on the Governor's Cabinet for Health and Human Services over the past year and it has been an amazing partnership of members that work in both the private and public sector sharing ideas and working collaboratively with a focus to ensure that the state has a stable private provider community to deliver services to the most vulnerable citizens of Connecticut. This bill is going in the right direction to help us operate our vital businesses in the manner that is expected and allows us to retain the revenue at the end of the fiscal year. It makes good business sense considering "people" need us to be there for a life time! Thank you for listening and your service to the State of Connecticut.