

Testimony to the Public Health Committee  
February 27, 2013  
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Testimony: [Proposed S.B. 129 AN ACT CONCERNING THE HARTFORD REGIONAL CENTER OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.](#)

My son, Andrew Puglisi, lives in a group home in Southbury, CT run by Oak Hill and attends a day program in Torrington, CT, run by Oak Hill.

I think it is about time we start caring about the individuals that need care and less about state verse private providers. Why aren't we all in this together? We need to come up with a way to serve people with disabilities with the respect they deserve and to work together as a team to use the DDS dollars more efficiently. The continued underfunding of these services is hurting people who have enough to deal with already. Families are struggling to get the help they need to care for their children and as they age this becomes more of a challenge. There is no new money in DDS for residential services and parents who have been on a waiting list have been told there is NO waiting list as there is nothing to wait for.

My son, Andy is a productive, healthy young man because of all the programs that he has and I want it to continue to be that way. I am working harder than ever to keep him safe and well cared for. I am also talking to parents across the state (in my workshops "After the Cap and Gown") encouraging them to become involved now to provide a future for their child.

What we need right now is for everyone to work together, individuals, families, DDS, unions, Trade Organizations and providers to create a new system of community supports that FULLY FUND THE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS THAT INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES DESPERATLY NEED.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Nitch  
Parent/Conservator for Andrew J. Puglisi