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Testimony before the Public Health Committee:

In SUPPORT of: [HB No. 6388](#) (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES',

To replace the terms "intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded" and "residential facility for the mentally retarded" with "intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities" and "residential facility for persons with intellectual disability", respectively, in accordance with the federal terminology.

Presented By:

Julia Wilcox, Senior Public Policy Specialist, Connecticut Association of Nonprofits

Public Hearing Date: February 27, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee: I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Julia Wilcox, Senior Public Policy Specialist for the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits (CT Nonprofits.) CT Nonprofits is a membership organization that represents more than 525 mission-based, nonprofit agencies. Approximately 300 of our member organizations contract with state government for a variety of human and social services. The following testimony is presented on behalf of the Developmental Disabilities Division of Providers who contract with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS.)

CT Nonprofits stands in support of [HB No. 6388](#) 'AN ACT CONCERNING INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.' The stated purpose of the bill is to 'replace the terms "intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded" and "residential facility for the mentally retarded" with "intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities" and "residential facility for persons with intellectual disability", respectively, in accordance with the federal terminology.'

We applaud Commissioner Macy and his Administration for proposing this legislation, and express our gratitude to members of the Public Health Committee for Raising the Bill. The revised language supports the essence of [Public Act No. 11-16](#), 'AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO STATUTES RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES INCLUDING THE UTILIZATION OF RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE WHEN REFERRING TO PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.'

[Public Act No. 11-16](#) was also introduced by the Public Health Committee (approved May 24, 2011.) The purpose of this legislation was to: (1) Utilize person first, respectful language in statutes relating to the Department of Developmental Services that refer to persons with intellectual disability, (2) eliminate obsolete statutes and reporting requirements, and (3) have the statutes accurately reflect the department's responsibilities for licensing community companion homes and community living arrangements.

In closing, CT Nonprofits supports the Committee and the Department of Developmental Services, in their efforts to improve the terminology as stated. These revisions will not only support the individuals served by the DDS, they will bring the Connecticut Statutes in keeping with federal standards of respectful language.

For Your Information – Please note the following summary of separate Testimony submitted 2.27.13, Public Health Committee, regarding additional, proposed legislation:

In SUPPORT of the following legislation:

(Proposed by the Department of Developmental Services & Raised by the Public Health Committee):

SB No. 874 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' STATUTES', to make a technical change to the statute establishing the Camp Harkness Advisory Committee, to change term limits and appointments to the Birth-to-Three Interagency Coordinating Council, and to establish the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council.

HB No. 6388 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES', to replace the terms "intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded" and "residential facility for the mentally retarded" with "intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities" and "residential facility for persons with intellectual disability", respectively, in accordance with the federal terminology.

In OPPOSITION to the following, proposed legislation:

Proposed **SB No. 129** 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE HARTFORD REGIONAL CENTER OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES,' to prevent the closure of the Hartford regional center group home located in Newington.

Proposed **HB No. 6005** 'AN ACT CONCERNING A MORATORIUM ON THE CLOSURE OF GROUP HOMES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES,' to prevent the disruption of current, long-term group home clients.

I thank you for your time and consideration of these critically important issues. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time, with questions, or for additional information:

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