



**Testimony to the Public Health Committee
February 27, 2013
By Leslie Simoes, Executive Director**

Testimony: [Proposed S.B. 874 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' STATUTES.](#)

The Arc Connecticut is a 60-year old advocacy organization committed to protecting the basic civil basic rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to promoting opportunities for their full inclusion in the life of their communities. We have 18 chapters across Connecticut providing direct support and services. We rose from grass roots advocacy and have hundreds of families and individuals with disabilities in our Arc family.

The Arc Connecticut supports Commissioner Macy's direction and vision for the department and commends the administration with many new family centered, person driven initiatives. The mission of DDS is to partner with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to create opportunities for individuals to fully participate as members of their communities.

The 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 is in alignment with the department's mission and goals and The Arc Connecticut does not take issue with the proposed revisions. Please consider voting favorably [S.B. 874 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' STATUTES](#) out of committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, for clarification or to arrange a visit with a private provider of community based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in your area. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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