State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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Commissioner

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TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES

May 21, 2013

Good afternoon, Senators Harp and Slossberg, Representatives Walker and Abercrombie and members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committees. I am Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and I am joined today by Siobhan Morgan, DDS's Director of Waiver Services. I am here before you today to seek your support for the proposed amendments to both the Department of Developmental Services Comprehensive Support waiver and Employment and Day Supports (EDS) waiver.

The amendments to these waivers will increase waiver slots retroactively for participants who are already receiving services and accommodate our caseload growth as already projected in the proposed FY14-FY15 budget. This is a revenue maximization effort. As a result of streamlining our internal systems and working collaboratively with the Department of Social Services on enrollment issues, DDS has dramatically reduced the amount of time it takes to enroll someone on the waiver and we have been able to identify additional people who are already receiving services who can be enrolled on the waivers.

The comprehensive waiver will be increased from 4800 to 4950 (150 slots) in the current year, which is the fifth year of the waiver. The average cost per participant in this waiver is $139,149.

For the EDS waiver, the number of participant slots will increase by 400 slots over the course of the five year waiver which ends in April 2016. The average cost per participant in this waiver is $22,947.

Waiver Descriptions

The Comprehensive Support Waiver has operated since October of 2005. It targets persons with intellectual disability in need of an institutional level of care. This waiver provides the necessary services to support individuals who reside in licensed settings, or who reside in a personal home and require a comprehensive array of services. The Comprehensive Support waiver provides a broad array of supports so that individuals with more comprehensive needs, particularly in the behavioral or medical areas, can also choose a personalized package of supports necessary to remain in their own or their family home.

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The Employment and Day Supports waiver was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) beginning April 1, 2011 for a period of five years. This waiver is designed to support individuals who live with family or in their own homes and have a strong natural support system. This includes children under the age of 21 with complex medical needs who would otherwise require institutional placement and individuals over the age of 18 who require career development, supported employment or community-based day supports, respite, and/or behavioral supports to remain in their own or their family home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.