



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

Testimony: [Proposed H.B. 5360 AN ACT CONCERNING AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM.](#)

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. Part of this vision is to increase employment opportunities for the individuals served.

[H.B. 5360](#) would require the Commissioner of DDS to develop and implement an internship program for adults with autism spectrum disorders and that chapter 208 of the general statutes be amended to allow a business a tax credit of up to two hundred dollars for every adult with ASD intern said business assigns to a program designed to connect program participants with the community. This proposed bill is in alignment with the department's mission and vision and The Arc Connecticut supports the proposed language. Please consider voting favorably on [H.B. 5360 AN ACT CONCERNING AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM.](#)

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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