

To: Public Health Committee

Thank you for letting us submit testimony on behalf of people who are served by the Department of Developmental Services. My name is Jamie Lazaroff. I'm a person who happens to have a Developmental/ Intellectual disability. I'm the Self-Advocate Coordinator at the Arc Quinebaug Valley in Danielson, Connecticut and I also work with our state office to unify our voices. I also serve on the Governor's council on Developmental Services.

I oppose proposed bill 6005 an act concerning a moratorium on the closure of group homes operated by the Department of Developmental Services. At a recently meeting Commissioner Macy said the cost per person at the regional centers is over \$400,000 per year for approximately 200 individuals and rising each year. These funds could be better used in other areas of the Department and the non – for- profit private provider system where people with DD/ID receive their services. I am concerned that any expansion of state – operated services would impact the ability of DDS to move forward with their new mission statement and five – year plan or pay for the services that they already have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Lazaroff
Self-Advocate Coordinator
The Arc Quinebaug Valley, Inc.
687 Cook Hill Road
Danielson, CT 06239
Phone: 860.774.2827
Fax: 860-774-4265