



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

Testimony: [Proposed H.B. 6388 AN ACT CONCERNING INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.](#)

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. As part of this vision and mission, DDS promotes the use of respectful language in all areas of the department specifically removing the "R" word; "Retardation" from print except where statutorily needed.

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, is in accordance with the federal terminology and is in alignment with the department's mission and goals. The Arc Connecticut supports the proposed revisions. Please consider voting favorably on [H.B. 6388 AN ACT CONCERNING INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.](#)

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.

**43 Woodland Street, Suite 260
Hartford, CT 06105**

(860) 246-6400 x101

lsimoes@arcocfct.org

www.thearcct.org