

Testimony of Fr. Russell L. Carmichael OLB., OSB, MA

I am vehemently opposed to ABI Waiver II after a thorough review, studious research, and analysis by my colleagues. Whom, many people here have learned, are at the highest levels of our great governing body and the office of Governor. Contrary to being a bunch of crazy radicals, we are an extremely astute and politically savvy, active coalition of concerned survivors and their families.

We are in the forefront of opposition to Waiver II.

My colleague, Mr. Dominic Cotton, has outlined clearly the reasons why we are, as a coalition, in opposition to this morally reprehensible waiver:

1. Inappropriate cost derivation:
2. Failure to address the current waiting list
3. Forces people to languish in nursing homes when they should be in the community.
4. Is a mental health support model totally inappropriate to brain injury.
5. The implementation of such a model will lead to significant harm, serious crisis and put the health and safety of brain injury survivors in Connecticut at great risk.

These are only a few of the factors; many other folks will testify to the rest.

I personally believe that we have, in theological terms, demonstrated to the Governor, through our meeting with the Lt. Governor and several meetings with the honorable Commissioner Bremby and staff, that Waiver II needs to be crucified. Even though his staff has had two plus years in pursuit of the development stage in an effort to present this abomination of work to the community of survivors and family without our input; at a very great expense to our tax payers.

This morally reprehensible piece of work needs to be sent directly to the eternal fires of damnation and left in ashes.

What we have done as a coalition of ABI-Survivor's and family members, in response to this repugnant presentation concerning waiver II is to give the State and the Department of Social Service a way to rise from the ashes with dignity and moral clarity, have their concerns met and leave Waiver I open and expanded as our recommendations state.

I have attached our proposed solutions to my amended testimony for your review.. In conclusion. Please note... Again in my view. 1.) We crucified waiver II 2.) Waiver II needs to be sent to Hell. 3.) DSS can have a resurrection by accepting our solutions. Then we may all have a happy Easter... Thank You.