

Dear Members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committee,

My name is Paul Sullivan, and I am a private ILST that specializes in providing technical services and support in the deployment of computer-based communications systems for people who cannot speak.

This is the third time I've had to take the day off work in order to attend one of these meetings.

What has been clear throughout this entire process, since the very beginning, is that the whole point is to sunset and ultimately kill off the current ABI Waiver.

Another common thread has been to either radically reduce or eliminate ILST services in favor of cheaper ones.

Commissioner Bremby neglected to mention changes in policy or funding levels allocated to specific services in the newly proposed menu of services. ABI Waiver II would be funding those new services through reductions in service hours for ILSTs.

This equates to a radical migration from a rehabilitative care model to a maintenance one. It is the ILSTs that teach clients the skills necessary to be as independent as possible. A reduction of these services in favor of cheaper ones will inevitably produce inferior results.

Without the level of ILST support on some cases, and without the support we provide to both our clients and their families, it is likely that some people would be re-institutionalized.

This would eliminate middle-class jobs for those self-employed persons and small businesses that cannot afford to sustain a 40% pay cut. As a result, those skills and services would be lost or would have to be replaced at a much higher cost.

The truth is that ILSTs do far more work on these cases than will ever be known or acknowledged. If those services are reduced, there will be a very real impact on the quality of care for individuals with brain injury.

By not voting on this measure at all, it would by default allow an even more backward and draconian version of this proposal to come into effect. DSS is trying to pass the responsibility of this mess onto our legislators by manipulating and forcing the necessity for a vote.

Please evaluate this Trojan Horse very carefully. The devil really is in the details.

This entire proposal is loaded with unintended consequences and hidden costs.

Please vote, and vote lousy this measure DOWN.

Send a message to DSS that they need to do a better job and not foist their dubious policy experiments onto you as legislators.

Sincerely,

Paul Sullivan  
Owner/Manager/ILST  
Adaptive Solutions  
Niantic, CT