State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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Governor

Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
TO THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

March 3, 2014

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding **H.B. No. 5049 - An Act Eliminating Unnecessary Government Regulation.**

The Department of Developmental Services stands in strong support of the Governor's Bill, **H.B. No. 5049**, which takes a major step towards eliminating unnecessary, and in our department's case, obsolete regulations. Section 33 of the bill would repeal two sets of DDS regulations; sections 17a-218-8 to 17a-218-17, inclusive, and sections 17a-244-1 to 17a-244-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. If the department were to go through the normal repeal process for these two sets of regulations, it would take a commitment of DDS staff time that could be better used in drafting and amending other regulations to reflect the department's current best practices.

Specifically, repealing sections 17a-218-8 to 17a-218-17, inclusive, Respite Programs would eliminate regulations that were never required statutorily and whose regulatory subject matter is covered in the requirements of DDS's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waivers. Having these Respite Program regulations in place is not only duplicative but can lead to some conflict between these regulations and the evolving requirements of the HCBS waivers governing the provision of respite services. The legislature will continue to have oversight of how DDS respite services are provided through their review and approval process of all state Medicaid waivers.

Repealing sections 17a-244-1 to 17a-244-8, inclusive, Unified School District #3 is a technical fix to reflect the department's closure of its Early Connections program, which is the state-run portion of the Birth to Three System. Unified School District #3 oversees the Early Connections program and with the last child exiting Early Connections in the spring of 2014, there will be no further need for these regulations. DDS is currently shepherding its agency bill **S.B. No. 255** -

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An Act Concerning Unified School District #3, which repeals statutory references to Unified School District #3, through the legislative process.

Please contact Christine Pollio Cooney at (860) 418-6066 if you would like additional information from DDS. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on the Governor's bill **H.B. No. 5049**.