

Patricia Fay Lenz HB 5534

Dear Legislators, I do not support this bill. I believe it has some good ideas but not in the right order. We need to look at eligibility first for all people with disabilities and then entitlement. This bill has the reverse order. It is like putting the "cart before the horse". The ARC of CT, which is a non-profit organization has been doing a fantastic job of educating families and legislators on all the sutlies of the federal and state regulations/laws regarding people with disabilities. An ID Caucus has been formed in the legislature with about 36 legislators involved. I believe we should let them do their due diligence and come up with a plan of action that fits everyones needs.

I know the 1199 union is trying to help families(families can't wait group),by creating Bill 5534, as well as financially providing the money, and developing all of the PR/publicity information around it but they are not experts in this field. The ARC is the expert and has no attachment to any union, agency or group except to serve the families and individuals with disabilities. We all recognize that changes need to be made and that DDS needs to be restructure to meet more of the needs of more of the families. However rushing into this by passing this bill is not the answer. We don't need to make more mistakes and hurt more people.

Thank you,

Patricia Fay Lenz