

From A Concerned Parent in Support of Raised Bill No 5534:

Anthony M. Catania is the son of Ronald and Donna Catania. Tony is a client at Oak Hill; a Private Community Service Provider. He resides at Mott Hill Road, Glastonbury, CT. He has been there since the year 2000.

Tony is multi handicapped, has blindness, cannot walk, or talk. The Oak Hill Home where Tony resides is maintained with Staff that is Professional, Well Trained, Caring, and Sharing. Tony has an Oak Hill Day Program that allows Him to have Quality of Life that is Superb, and Innovative. That program as well as others may be in jeopardy according to anticipated budget cuts in the future. Together the Home, the Program, and the Administration of Oak Hill regard each Client as Family.

The Staff bathe Him, help Him with feeding, Clothe Him, put Him in the Whirlpool, the Stander, get His meals for Him, and make Him ready for his bedtime. I am sure that I have left out the other quality things that the Staff performs.

My Wife and I conclude that Tony really understands that the Staff that takes care of Him and really cares about Him. Although Tony cannot talk, our visits to Mott Hill indicate that He knows He is in the right place. His laughter and comforting sounds allow us a comfort level. Without it being said, He is telling us "I am good and don't worry Mom and Dad". We could not agree more.

My continued attendance as a Member of the Parents Advocacy Group reinforced the realization that where our loved ones might end up should budgets be curtailed, or cut. The services that are present could go away representing a void to each and every challenged individual, not only in Oak Hill, but with other Providers.

When supporting Bill No. 5534 think in terms of what is provided for our loved ones but just as important think in terms if it was your Son or Daughter?

You must agree that the support of Bill 5534 allows us to understand that a plan must be developed FOR OUR LOVED ONES.

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