

Hi,

I am writing to voice my support for Raised Bill No. 5534, An Act Concerning the Provision of Services to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. Unfortunately I have seen far too often the effects that current system has on the families of these individuals. Whether it was my fiancée whose sister who has cerebral palsy, my best friend who has a brother with Down Syndrome or my father who served as a guardian for his uncle with intellectual disabilities because no other family members remained to advocate for his care, I have seen a common theme between all of them. There is a constant realization that the services that the Department of Developmental Services provides are not adequate and it leaves them under the constant strain of worrying about what will happen to their loved ones if something ever happens to them. These families work hard to ensure the best possible care and life for their loved ones and should not have the added burden and worry about their loved ones' futures. The State needs to act now to provide the adequate services these citizens are entitled to and the peace of mind their loved ones deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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