

Testimony of Walter Glomb on Raised H.B. No. 5534 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Walter Glomb. I am a resident of Rockville. I have three sons. My youngest, Nick, who is now 25 years old, lives with Down syndrome. Nick receives Supported Employment services from the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services under a Medicaid waiver.

I am here today on behalf of my son and others who live with intellectual disabilities to speak **IN FAVOR** of Raised H.B. No. 5534 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

As a parent of a child who lives with an intellectual disability, I have been active in many advocacy organizations. I served on the board of directors of the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress where I was the president for four years. I am presently a leader of the Family Empowerment Task Force, a statewide organization of parents. I have also served on committees and advisory councils for the Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Education. Through these activities I have direct personal experience with hundreds of families of individuals who live with intellectual disabilities - and insight to our state services.

There is a growing gap between the duties of the Department of Developmental Services and the resources available to perform those duties. According to state statute, DDS is responsible for "complete and comprehensive" state-wide services for persons with intellectual disability. Complete and comprehensive. Yet our current process for budgeting and appropriation does not allow the Commissioner of DDS to report the total potential cost of complete and comprehensive services. This bill would require the Commissioner to tell the legislature how much he really needs to fulfill his mission!

This bill also begs profound questions about eligibility, the nature of services, and appropriations. These questions all need more illumination, which I believe they would receive through this bill.

The bill would require that each person with intellectual disability, who is eligible to receive services, actually receive services from the Department. Currently, the key objective criteria for eligibility is an IQ score of 69 or less. In Connecticut, that could be about 40,000 adults*, which is much greater than the number currently served by DDS and does not include all individuals on the autism spectrum.

Under this bill, how would the Commissioner determine what services would be provided to each person? Currently, the services provided to an individual are determined by an individual's level of need and their personal preferences – though there are many individuals currently served by DDS who were assigned services before DDS assessed level of need or allowed individual choice. The menu of services is also evolving and many legacy settings are no longer acceptable.

Finally, since the bill calls for the actual implementation of a plan to provide services to every person who is eligible, there would have to be substantial additional appropriations to DDS. Is the legislature prepared to appropriate those funds or would we have to redefine the eligibility and services?

Thank you.

* IQ is a standard normal distribution with a mean of 100 and standard deviation of 15 so the number of people with IQ of 69 or less are about 2% of the total population. If there are about two million adults in Connecticut then there are about 40,000 adults with IQ of 69 or less.