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MEMBER  
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**Testimony regarding 1915(C) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAIVER, CT  
ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY WAIVER II APPLICATION**

Dear Chairwoman Bye, Chairwoman Walker, Chairwoman Slossberg, and Chairwoman Abercrombie, and members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committees:

Last September, I sponsored a Community Forum, hosted by the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut in order to get public feedback regarding the Department of Social Services' proposed changes to the current Medicaid Waiver Program. There was a great deal of passion in this room on that day, as there is today. I think the one thing we can all agree on is that the state of care for individuals with brain injuries in Connecticut is not working.

I am here to indicate my support of the intent of the **1915(C) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAIVER, CT ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY WAIVER II APPLICATION**. While I believe there are many flaws in the application, which you will hear about today, I believe the intent, to create a Second Waiver which will significantly reduce the waiting list to receive services is critical. Individuals and families have been waiting too long to receive the services they deserve in their community.

One of my constituents sustained a brain injury in 2007 in a car crash at the age of 18. With no in-state facilities able to meet his needs, he received rehabilitative care in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire for eighteen months. During that time, his mother would spend every week in New

Hampshire, with his father coming up every weekend. Their entire life revolved around the 5 hour round trip to New Hampshire. In December 2008, Mike finally was able to move back in with his parents, and finally rejoin his family. It would be almost two more years until Mike's name came up on the ABI Waiver Waitlist and he was able to begin receiving services under the Waiver.

I know what this family has gone through and continues to go through. They are part of my community. I also know they are not alone. Too many people wait years to receive home and community based services. I believe there are many flaws in this application which need to be addressed before its submission. I believe your committees can help make this happen.

On behalf of my Simsbury constituents with brain injuries and the family members and circles of support that sustain them, thank you for your consideration of this application.