

Testimony of Emily Angeloff , self-advocate member of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Service Improvement Working Group, appointed by Governor Malloy

to the Appropriations Committee, in opposition to

H.B. No. 6824 “AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE,” Specific to the DDS Budget

March 6, 2015

My name is Emily Angeloff. I am an Office Assistant at Horizons. I am also a self-advocate member of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Service Improvement Working Group, appointed by Governor Malloy. I also receive supports at work through Horizons. I receive supports at home 3 days a week through Interim. Based on the projected budget cuts, my life, and the lives of my friends would be greatly impacted. I rely on the funding I receive from the state to provide supports for me to be efficient at my job. Without this funding I wouldn't have a job and without a job I would have no income to support myself. I wouldn't have a social life because I would be at home alone. Cuts to funding for my home supports would impact my independence. This would include my activities of daily living such as bathing, doing laundry, and brushing my teeth. Transportation would also be impacted in budget cuts. My friends and I rely on either public transportation or funding through the agency for them to provide us transportation. This would impact our ability to go to work, grocery shopping, or doing something fun like meeting friends for coffee. I am fortunate enough that my family has a vehicle that is accessible for my chair; however my friends are not as fortunate. In talking to my friends I find that they share similar concerns about how their lives would be impacted if they couldn't go to work or lost their supports to perform their jobs. I have friends who lost the funding for their job and now they are stuck not making an income and searching for employment for weeks. My friends worry about having to rely on public transportation to work if the

funding is cut from the agency to provide their transportation. Living in a rural area makes public transportation very limited. These are just a few concerns that my friends and I have in regards to the proposed budget cuts. With the cuts being so high in numbers it makes me feel like I am not a valued member of my community. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony. Can I answer any questions you may have?