

Achieve with us.

TESTIMONY OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

1. WHO WE ARE. The Arc New London County is a **60-year-old, grassroots agency in Southeastern Connecticut founded by families** to support **loved ones with I/DD**. Driven by a philosophy that every person should be as independent as possible, **The Arc walks with people to greater independence, saving millions of taxpayer dollars each year.**
2. WHAT WE DO. Two people served by The Arc NLC have moved into independent living models **saving the state \$150,000 dollars per year. Over the next decade, the reliance of these two people on government will be reduced by \$1.5 million dollars.** This budget threatens Connecticut's most efficient means of helping residents live their best, most independent lives.
3. WHO WE SERVE. The Arc NLC serves **556 people with I/DD** in Southeastern Connecticut. Services range **from residential to in-home supports to day and employment services.** The Arc's Community Life & Advocacy program, funded solely through public events and United Way of SE CT, provides **critical respite to 155 adults and their families, support groups for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse,** and small group outings, **Special Olympics and rides to the polls so people with I/DD can vote.**
4. JOBS. **The Arc NLC employs 276 adults and contributes more than \$6,000,000** in wages to the local economy. **Nearly 30% of our employees are minorities and 72.7% are women.** The Arc NLC's full-time turnover is 8%; part-time, 30%. Reliance on part-time workers to survive unfunded ACA mandates drives turnover. **At current IHS reimbursement rates, 45 clients are served by 37 part-time (no healthcare benefits paid @\$12.50/hr) and 1 full-time employee (full healthcare).** A \$5/hr IHS increase would allow The Arc NLC to serve 45 clients with 24 full-time employees with full healthcare at a \$12.50/hr wage. **A \$9/hr IHS increase would sustain full-time employment with healthcare for 24 employees at an \$18.50/hr wage.**
5. TRANSPORTATION. **Lack of mass transit adds to agency costs and employee expenses.** Agency transport and personal vehicle operation costs strain low-wage workers' and clients' abilities to use personal vehicles to work. **With transportation subsidies as low as 46¢/mile and real operation costs as high as 87¢/mile, a transportation subsidy of 41¢/mile is desperately needed and would help the working poor while reducing turnover and related costs.**
6. ECONOMIC IMPACT. **The Arc NLC spends \$1 million each year on gasoline, fuel oil, groceries, office supplies, hardware, furniture and health insurance alone** in one of the most economically depressed in the United States. A cut to nonprofits is a cut to local business.

Kathleen Stauffer
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