

1088

My name is Barry Sheftel and I live in Cromwell, CT. I would first like to thank Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and the members of the Public Health Committee for having the courage and common sense to raise Bill SB 1088 and urge them to pass it out of their committee.

My interest in this Bill stems from the outrageous cost being incurred of over \$400,000 per resident that is occurring at the Southbury Training facility. As a Board member of the Arc Meriden-Wallingford and The Arc Connecticut for over 25 years and 10 years, respectfully, I am very familiar with the advantages of small community residential settings and day programs for individuals and the tremendous progress they can make with their daily activities, social-interaction and self-esteem. I also have first-hand experience with the funding restraints facing individuals with developmental disabilities as a parent of a 38 year old daughter who used to attend a day program but has had to stay at home since her tracheotomy which resulted from a very serious and extensive battle with pneumonia over seven years ago. Our daughter needs 24 hour care and assistance with all of her daily living activities.

I can only imagine the number of individuals who are currently receiving little, or no financial support due to lack of funding which could be available if the residents at the Southbury facility were provided with better care and services in smaller settings in the community. On average, it currently costs substantially less than \$100,000 per individual in private residential settings versus the \$400,000 spent per individual at Southbury.

Please do everything possible to pass Bill SB 1088. I also encourage you to set a more specific time-table than the present Bill includes so the transitions can be accomplished by a specific date and which can be monitored.

Thank you for your time.

Barry L. Sheftel  
2 Long Green Terrace  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860 808-7317  
bsheftel@att.net

. Your name and the town you live in.

2. You are writing to support SB 1088: An Act

3. Thank Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and the 4. Give an brief explanation of why you support SB 1088.