

I am C. Edward Leach Jr., residing in Glastonbury, CT and writing in support of SB 1088:An Act. Firstly, I would like to thank Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and the members of the Public Health Committee for raising the bill and urge them to pass it out of their committee.

After retiring from active medical practice, I joined the Board of MARC of Manchester. This association has greatly expanded my understanding of the complexities and challenges facing those who support our citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The present budget crisis has amplified the need for fair and appropriate allocation of monies. It has also brought into focus the awareness that support for individuals with I/DD living in state-operated residences is about twice as costly as those in private facilities.

My support for SB 1088 is not simply a financial issue. It is clear that the goal in support of those with I/DD revolves around inclusivity and community integration. Therefore, we must a deliberative conversation about how we can appropriately transition individuals from state-operated residences to private, community-based homes.

This Act will began that process in earnest and should be passed.