

Testimony for SB1088 : AAC Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disability
Submitted by Chris McNaboe, CEO Horizons, Inc.
March 18, 2015 Public Health Committee

Good morning Senator Gerratana, Rep. Ritter and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Chris McNaboe, CEO of Horizons a nonprofit agency providing services for 36 years- statewide for people with developmental disabilities where they live, learn, work and play. I come before you today in support of SB 1088, An Act Concerning Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disability.

It's time. It's time that Connecticut deals with this issues in a plan full manner. Residents who live in institutional settings are being denied inclusion in their communities. They are being sequestered away to make others feel comfortable, not for the care and supports they need. Since the 1980's Connecticut has been building a robust network of nonprofit agencies who have developed a strong, professional team of staff. These agencies have been the ones to create innovative, person centered supports for the people with developmental disabilities in their towns and cities. Nonprofit agencies have knocked on doors of employers and demonstrated by example that our folks have the skills and talents to do many, many jobs. And if they need some support to complete the job, our staff are the ones side by side in the trenches with then coaching them towards completion. As a matter of record 91% of all Employment and Day services for people with Developmental Disabilities is provided by the PRIVATE SECTOR.

Since the 80's, Provide providers have been supporting folks to live in community settings all across CT. The vast majority of residential services, 85%, are provided by the PRIVATE SECTOR. We support people to go to church, shop at the grocery store, take a swimming glass, go out to eat. We support the people with complex medical needs, people who are dying with dignity in their group homes, people who have very challenging behaviors.

Connecticut has a professional network of Private Providers that have capacity to grow, and meet the needs of people now living in institutional setting. We are ready. We can do it now! Make the plan to close Southbury Training School and the regional centers now.

Chris McNaboe
Chief Executive Officer