

Hello, My name is Dawn Lazaroff and I live in Hampton. I am the parent of a 38 year old man who has a Developmental Disabilities. **I'm writing in support of SB 1088: An Act Concerning Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.**

Thank you Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and the members of the Public Health Committee for raising SB 1088, I urge you to pass it out of this committee.

I support SB 1088 because the closure of Southbury Tanning School and the Regional Centers will bring real savings to the state of Connecticut. These savings will ultimately help to support the shortfall in the DDS budget as it stands today. These savings will also help to give families on the waiting list some peace of mind when it comes to planning for their sons and daughters future. These families live in fear of not knowing what will happen to their sons or daughters if there is no plan in place when they die.

My son lives in his own apartment and is also employed by The Arc Quinebaug Valley. He is fortunate to have a budget with DDS to help support him at his job and in his apartment. Without the DDS supports it would be left to his father and I to support him in both his apartment and work. These DDS supports allow him to be as independent as he can from us in his apartment and as successful as he is at work.

I would like to remind everyone that when Mansfield Training School closed all of those residents were moved to other living arrangements in the community and they not only survived they thrived.

If any one of these people were your son, daughter, brother, or sister what would you want for them. To be segregated from society or to be a member of their community.