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RE: SB1088 AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

I am writing in support of SB 1088. As a pediatrician I care for many individuals with a range of disabilities including those requiring complex medical care and 24 hour nursing in the home. As a parent of a young adult with autism and ID, I also live with and personally understand many of the challenges my patients' parents face. Currently, DDS is telling all of these families that there will be no funding to ensure their adult children have a safe and secure future. NO RESIDENTIAL SUPPORTS, NO DAY SUPPORT FUNDING. There is no rational or fair reason for the state of CT to continue to pour much needed funds into costly state run facilities. Especially, when there are thousands of individuals with similar needs to those being cared for in these facilities who are unable to get any services or supports. Their family members are at risk for losing their jobs and financial ruin because they have to care for their adult family members. This does not make moral or ethical sense and certainly does not make financial sense.

Other states, including our neighbor Massachusetts, have been able to accomplish this task. Alan Bergman, a nationally known expert in providing supports within the community using private agencies has spoken to the legislature. I understand how difficult change and transition can be. I live with a 20 year old who requires her world to be certain and ordered. I simply ask that the needs of the thousands of individuals that DDS continues to say **"no"** to be given the same weight as those who have gone before us. I ask you to vote in support of SB 1088.

Thank you,

Michelle Rivelli, M.D., F.A.A.P.