

To those conducting the March 18, 2015 Public Hearing on S.B. No. 1088;

As a parent of a child with IDD, I am submitting this written testimony in favor of S.B. 1088. Our son, Dan, is already receiving residential and other supports from DDS, and those supports have enabled him to live in the community and become a working member of society as a client of the Arc of the Farmington Valley. However, countless other individuals like him are still waiting for supports, many with parents or other caregivers who because of age or poor health are struggling to provide the necessary care for their loved ones.

This is an intolerable situation that must be addressed. With the state's current budget crisis casting a long shadow over the prospects for additional funding for DDS, we must find ways to better use the fiscal and other resources that are currently available for those with IDD. State operated facilities are the highest cost alternative in that regard and thus, it makes great sense to formulate a plan for their closure as soon as possible and to transition the residents of those facilities to community-based settings. We also desperately need a plan to meet the needs of all persons receiving services from the Department of Developmental Services, and S.B. No.1088 will help ensure that plan is formulated and reported on in a timely fashion.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

|Frederick (Rick) Lenz  
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