

*Achieve with us.*

18 March 2015

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 1088 'AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY'

1. THANK YOU. The Arc New London County **thinks Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and the members of the Public Health Committee for raising this important Bill** and respectfully requests that it be passed out of Committee.
2. WHO WE ARE. The Arc New London County is **a 60-year-old, grassroots agency in Southeastern Connecticut founded by families to support loved ones with I/DD**. Driven by a philosophy that every person is entitled to full inclusion, **The Arc walks with people toward greater independence so they might live their best lives, saving millions of taxpayer dollars each year**.
3. WHO WE SERVE. The Arc NLC serves **556 people with I/DD** in Southeastern Connecticut. Services range **from residential to in-home supports to day and employment services**. The Arc's Community Life & Advocacy program, funded solely through public events and United Way of SE CT, provides **critical respite to 155 adults and their families, support groups for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse**, and small group outings, **Special Olympics and rides to the polls so people with I/DD can vote**.
4. STOP APARTHEID! **The Arc NLC unequivocally opposes the institutionalization of human beings for no reason other than an IQ test score**. Despite the glaring and problematic civil rights aspects of maintaining Southbury Training School (STS), **Connecticut stubbornly clings to an antiquated approach of supporting people w I/DD even as virtually every other State abandons this draconian Apartheid system**.
5. SB 1088 IS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. While The Arc NLC **at all times supports real work for real pay for all people at minimum wage or higher**, and while it **respectfully implores the State of Connecticut to address the human rights issue of flat wages for direct support professionals for almost 20 years now**, it is – at the same time – compelled to take the position that **warehousing one group of human beings so another might retain jobs is abhorrent and rightly shocks and offends the Constitutional sensibilities of a free and democratic people**.
6. CONNECTICUT MUST DO BETTER. As **one of the wealthiest states in America with the second-richest capital city in the nation**, Connecticut can and must do better

Kathleen Stauffer  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Arc New London County