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Senate Bill 1088  
Public Health Committee  
Public Hearing: 3/18/2015

I am writing to support SB 1088: AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY and would like to thank Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and the members of the Public Health Committee for raising this important bill.

I am a parent of a young adult with autism and epilepsy and I am very concerned about the future funding and services of the Department of Developmental Services. I was shocked to hear the per person cost for people living in our state operated facilities compared to those living in privately operated community residences. With a growing number of people who need residential placement and a limited amount of funding, it seems appropriate to move away from these high cost institutions. Many states have closed these types of institutions and the former residents have successfully transitioned to community-based settings.

Connecticut needs a plan for closing these facilities, transitioning the residents to community-based settings and meeting the needs of ALL persons receiving services from the Department of Developmental Services.

I would like to thank the committee again and urge you to move this bill forward.