

Testimony of Walter L. Glomb, Jr.
to the Committee on Public Health

March 17, 2015

Good afternoon members of the Committee.

My name is Walter Glomb and I live in Rockville. I am 58 years old and I am a parent to a 27 year old man who has Down syndrome and lives with me.

I am here to **SUPPORT** S.B. 1088 AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.

This bill would require the Commissioner of Developmental Services to develop a plan for the closure of state-operated intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

In supporting this bill I am echoing the legislature's own recommendation that "The Department of Developmental Services should continue its phasing out of providing 24-hour residential care in any of its DDS settings, but that it accelerate its efforts..." in its 2011 report on Provision of Selected Services for Clients with Intellectual Disabilities.¹ I also echo the Secretary of the Governor's Office of Policy and Management who stated that Southbury Training School (STS) will probably close in ten years due to attrition² and the ID/DD legislative Caucus and private advocacy groups who have called for closure by the year 2020.³

At her confirmation hearing, Commissioner Murray promised to convene all concerned stakeholders to develop a plan for Southbury Training School that would be fair for all.⁴ This bill would require her to do that in a timely manner and report to the legislature not later than December 15, 2015.

Following a civil rights lawsuit by the United States Department of Justice, STS was closed to new admissions in 1986 and is now the residence for only 309 individuals.^{4,5} Since 1986 the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has developed an extensive network of private nonprofit facilities in the community that currently serve approximately 3,300 individuals.¹ The staff at STS has determined that about 93 % of the current residents at STS can be supported in such private community-based facilities and a recent special report by the Remedial Expert in RICHARD MESSIER, et al. v. SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL states clearly that "...there are a number of compelling reasons for the state of Connecticut to now consider a carefully planned process for the closure of Southbury Training School."⁶

It is time for a plan. Please give this bill a favorable report.

Thank you.

Sources:

1. Provision of Selected Services for Clients with Intellectual Disabilities, Connecticut General Assembly Program Review and Investigations Committee, January, 2012.
2. Testimony of OPM Secretary Ben Barnes to the Governor's Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Working Group, December 18, 2014. (Video record available at <http://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?ID=11026>)
3. Legislative caucus wants to close Southbury Training School, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, February 14, 2015, 11:53 AM EST.
4. Testimony of DDS Commissioner Morna Murray to the Connecticut General Assembly Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, February 24, 2015. (Video record available at <http://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?ID=11221>)
5. U.S. v. Connecticut, The Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse, ID-CT-0005, <http://www.clearinghouse.net/detail.php?id=442>, accessed February 26, 2015.
6. Tony Records, Remedial Expert in RICHARD MESSIER, et al. v. SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL, Special Report of the Remedial Expert Regarding Southbury Training School, November 4, 2014.