

PLEASE SUPPORT BILL 1088!

March 17, 2015

My name is Nancy Clarke and I live in Westport, CT. I am 57 years old and I live with my husband, our daughter, and our son who is 22 years old and has autism and is intellectually disabled. At this point, I have no hope whatsoever that my son will live outside of my home, unless, of course, my husband and I both die

Today, I am respectfully requesting that the committee
**SUPPORT S.B. 1088 AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**

It has been asserted by others, including experts like Mr. Allan Bergman who recently made a compelling presentation to the I/DD Caucus, that the State of Connecticut is not using the funds available to the intellectually disabled community in an efficient or fair way. Although I agree and support the closing of Southbury Training Center, I believe it must be done in an expedient AND responsible way. In this case, money will need to be committed to this process in order to save money down the road. Please do not cut the DDS budget!

Even after the eventual close of Southbury, the money saved and reallocated will not be enough to resolve the crisis that the DDS "WAITING LIST" represents. It is imperative that this Legislature commits to give additional funding and absolutely not support the devastating cuts to DDS that have been suggested. The programs that are on the cutting block are actually programs that currently help families keep their loved ones safe in their own homes (e.g., VSP), that is, in the absence of a residential placement option. Please do not cut the DDS budget! We are running out of options!
Thank you for your support!

Nancy Clarke



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