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**Testimony of Marc Anthony Gallucci, Esq.
Executive Director - Center for Disability Rights
Funding - Centers for Independent Living**

February 27, 2015

Good Evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee.

I offer my testimony in opposition to the Governor's elimination of all funding for Centers for Independent Living. I support the testimony from our sisters Centers, and I believe that they have explained well the good and critical work that we do. I also believe that you have our "yellow" fact sheets which very ably describe the impact of our services and the vast amounts of money that we save the State each year. I do not intend to repeat that.

I would like to offer a very realistic projection of the negative impacts that the elimination of State funding will have on Center for Disability Rights. The following will almost certainly occur:

- 1) Our ability to be a part of the State's legally designated Single Point of Entry for Long Term Care will be jeopardized, and our Aging & Disability Resource Center will likely close;
- 2) CDR's ability to serve the 42 New Haven and Middlesex County towns in our catchment area will be lost, and we will have to choose only a very limited geographic area to serve. For instance, maybe we will no longer serve the New Haven area; but instead only serve some towns on the Shoreline; or vice versa. This means a termination of services that we have been offering for 25 years;

- 3) We will have to permanently lay off at least three to three and one-half individuals on our staff. All these individuals have severe disabilities, and have been proud to work for the Center for many years. One has been a valuable contributor for 25 years, and she has served thousands of people with disabilities through the years;
- 4) We will no longer offer Technical Assistance to CT State Agencies and Municipalities. Over the years we have given technical assistance on ADA compliance, work place modifications, and accessibility audits free of charge to the State and Municipalities. This technical assistance has not only resulted in valuable guidance to public entities, but it has saved them money; and,
- 5) Our ability to “house” the Money Follows the Person Program will be jeopardized. We have been a founding partner of the State’s successful nursing facility transition projects since 2001. We very much want to continue to be a part of the State’s Medicaid rebalancing efforts.

CT’s Centers for Independent Living (CILs) have been key to the State’s efforts to control otherwise out of control Medicaid costs. According to data provided by OPM and DSS, **in 2014 alone, we saved the State at the very minimum \$5,454,096. This is ten times the funding that we receive from the State under the Independent Living line item in the DORS budget.**

Thank you for your consideration.

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