

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Beth Bye

The Honorable Toni Walker

State Senator

State Representative

LOB Room 2700

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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Re: Restoration of State Funding for the Centers for Independent Living

As a former State of Connecticut Sr. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, who worked with people with disabilities, I **strongly** support the restoration of funding on behalf of **Independence Unlimited** and our sister Centers in other parts of the State. Presently, I am the current Chair of the Board of Independence Unlimited. I have been involved with I U Board for the past 14 Years. Our Center has always been a lead agency with serving people with disabilities.

The Staff of **Independence Unlimited** do amazing work. Some of these people have severe disabling conditions who model the way for other people with disabilities. It is through the work of dedicated staff, that the miracle of Independent Living becomes reality. This process is demanding for the consumer as they drive their independent living goal which can include employment. When I worked as a SR. Rehabilitation Counselor I used I U as a site to do a work evaluation. Most times these situations were successful.

In this past year I U increased the number of people with disabilities by 22%. Technical assistance was provided to thousands of people. We transitioned 70 people from institutions saving the State of CT millions of dollars. There is a lot happening with people who have severe disabilities.

Thank you for your support,

Katherine A. Carver, Chairperson

96 Newbury Street

Hartford CT 06114

