

I am submitting this testimony in favor of Bill Number 5900- An Act Concerning Electronic Eligibility Forms for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

Individuals with intellectual disability need to annually complete extensive redetermination paperwork with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). In most cases parents and guardians are responsible to complete the forms. In order to ease the burden on parents and guardians to complete more paperwork Bill Number 5900 was introduced by Representative Kiner after hearing from parents and visiting HARC, Inc.

In an paperless era this should have already been implemented. It will be easier to track from the state level and the parents/guardians will be able to save in a more reasonable manner.

Additional funding is always the most important issue with helping nonprofit community providers. However, there are other steps that legislators can take to help parents and guardians of individuals with intellectual disability. Requiring DDS to provide electronic redetermination eligibility forms and create a permanent disability form will accomplish that task, and save the State of Connecticut money during these challenging fiscal times.

John Staunton
1 Fox Chase Rd
Bloomfield, CT 06002-2107