

HB 2900

My name is Terry Labbe. I live at 63 John Avenue in Bristol Connecticut, 06010. I am the Director of Quality Assurance for Harc and a Community Companion Home Provider licensed through the Department of Developmental Services. It is in the Role of CCH Provider that I am addressing this issue surrounding the DSS Re determination process.

As it stands now as CCH Provider to Rhannon, who has Intellectual Disability, I need to complete Re-determination paperwork with the Department of Social Services(DSS) twice a year generally in March and October. I have been completing these forms for nearly 22 years, 2 times a year, always with the same information as previously filed forms with a slight difference perhaps in the small amount he may have in his Savings Account. The paperwork is not difficult however it is the time taken from Rhannon and any time I spend completing paper work related to him often confuses him.

Rhannon is very secure and happy in our home. However his Pervasive Developmental Disorder brings some anxiety for him when he sees me completing paper work of any kind, related to him. He briefly reminds himself and me out loud, "I am not going anywhere. We live together!" This is clearly an indication paper work related to him worries him. I believe he may feel something is going to change for him every time I have to fill out a form or document an event. As a CCH Provider I am required to complete lots of documentation! The frequency of this repetitive (and I have felt this forever) unnecessary re determination process for people with Pervasive Developmental Needs is not only a burden to me and Rhannon but is also taxpayer's money being spent for processing the paper work.

I do understand that funds issued to people by the government (ultimately the tax payers money) must be monitored from time to time. There has to be accountability. I was thrilled to death when I heard Harc was proposing a change in the DSS Re determination process.

Please do pass Harc's proposed Bill No. 5900. Legislation that requires DSS to create a permanent disability form and secure electronic re determination eligibility processes will absolutely reduce the time I spend on Rhannon's re determination paper work twice a year. Passing Bill 5900 will reduce Rhannon's fears and anxieties he appears to have every time extensive paper work must be completed.

Over the past 22 years Rhannon has made many personal gains and established lots of relationships but he continues to have Pervasive Developmental Disorder and will forever require 24 hour comprehensive supervision. His needs surrounding his disorder will not change. Rhannon is the light of my life and anything you can do to reduce the appearance of his anxiety and at the same time reduce the costs of processing re-determinations will be appreciated.

HARC is a community-based nonprofit organization in Hartford funded through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). It was founded in 1951 and helps over 2,200 individuals with intellectual disability and their families. HARC is a major provider of clinical and supportive programs that span the entire lifetime: early intervention (Birth-to-Three), family support, respite care, employment and day services, residential, recreation, behavioral health and elderly services.

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.

Respectfully Submitted
Terry Labbe