

3/2/15

To: Co-Chairs Gerratana and Ritter, and other members of the Public Health Committee.

RE: Senate Bill 918

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.

To require the Department of Developmental Services to provide certain services to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

My name is Mallory Buckingham, and I am a Speech Pathologist with DDS, serving adults with severe and profound developmental disabilities in the South region. I strongly support SB 918.

I see first hand how cuts to DDS line items negatively impact the individuals we serve. The department has already suffered rescissions of \$13.9 million in this fiscal year. That's fewer day program slots, fewer in home supports, fewer community experiences, and less support to families, who are already in crisis.

The Department needs immediate funding support for the 2,000 families on the 'waiting list', as well as adequate funding to provide the basic services needed to support our citizens with developmental disabilities achieve the vision of the department;

"All citizens supported by the Department of Developmental Services are valued contributors to their communities as family members, friends, neighbors, students, employees, volunteers, members of civic and religious associations, voters and advocates. These individuals:

Live, learn, work and enjoy community life in places where they can use their personal strengths, talents and passions.

Have safe, meaningful and empowering relationships.

Have families who feel supported from the earliest years and throughout their lifetimes.

Have lifelong opportunities and the assistance to learn things that matter to them.

Make informed choices and take responsibility for their lives and experience the dignity of risk.

Earn money to facilitate personal choices.

Know their rights and responsibilities and pursue opportunities to live the life they choose." Please support SB 918, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.

I'm sure there are fair and creative ways for all sectors of society to pay their fair share in taxes, so the disadvantaged don't suffer.

If I can be of any help, or answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mallory Buckingham, MS, CCC/SLP
42 West St.
Middletown, CT 06457

malloryslp@yahoo.com
C:860-965-5127