



To: Members of the Public Health Committee

**From: Brunilda Ferraj, Senior Public Policy Specialist
Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA)**

**Re: SB 1088: AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITY**

Date: March 18, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Brunilda Ferraj, Senior Public Policy Specialist at the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA). CCPA represents community-based organizations that provide health and human services for children, adults, and families in multiple areas, including mental health, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities. Our members serve more than 500,000 Connecticut residents each year.

I am writing in support of SB 1088: AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, which requires the Commissioner of DDS to develop a plan for the closure of intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

CCPA applauds efforts to focus attention on the closing of astronomically expensive state institutions that operate at the expense of funding for high quality alternatives in the private sector that are half the cost. For decades, community providers have struggled to make ends meet while providing essential community based services to individuals with disabilities. And while we understand that the closure of state-operated facilities is a complicated issue, we believe that the issue warrants a thorough review, as every state is now under a federal mandate to provide person-centered care to individuals with disabilities. Community providers are the answer to that mandate – they have been providing high-quality, person-centered care for decades, and yet their funding has been repeatedly reduced, while funding for more expensive state-operated sites remains untouched.

We respectfully request that you vote in favor of SB 100, and look forward to working with the DDS Commissioner, the legislature and community partners to develop a plan in which the state can thoughtfully and carefully transition away from the provision of services by expensive state institutions while keeping in mind the well-being and best interests of the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for additional information (bferraj@ccpa-inc.org; 860-257-7909).

Connecticut Community Providers Association

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