

Senator Gerratana & Representative Ritter  
Co-Chairs, Public Health Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: SB 1088 – Written Testimony**

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Craig Hlavac, and I am writing as a constituent of District 081 and District S16 in opposition to SB 1088.

My brother, Todd, currently resides in a state-administered ICF facility in Meriden, CT. Although he is a tall, 28-year old man, he functions close to the level of a two-year old. He requires medical and behavioral oversight 24-hours a day, and is unable to eat anything by mouth. He is ambulatory, but requires G-tube hydration and nutrition using a portable pump. His medical background is incredibly complex, and his needs require a professional nursing staff that is well-versed in his specific needs as well as the general needs of those with profound intellectual disabilities.

There are no appropriate placements in the private sector or in the community that have the supports and structures in place to allow persons with severe intellectual disabilities who require continuous medical support to live safely. Private sector companies are ill-equipped to handle complex clients, and therefore are often uninterested in serving this population. Where will these citizens go if ICF's are dismantled? Will they be forced out of state? Is it fair to ship away lifelong residents of Connecticut because it is more cost effective? I think the obvious answer is no – the state has an obligation to provide appropriate care for these residents. Although the ICF is not appropriate for most clients, it is necessary for some. Closing all ICF residences is a drastic measure that will have devastating impacts on residents who need stability and support.

I urge you to oppose SB 1088. Thank you for your time and consideration, and if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



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