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My name is Mary Waitt.

I am a provider under the acquired brain injury waiver, a member of the legislative advisory committee for brain injury and most importantly a mother of a brain injury survivor.

I am opposed to the governor's proposal to eliminate hearings for changes being made to waivers.

At a time when the federal government has underscored the importance of including hearings in the waiver process by requiring them as part of any new waiver decisions under the Affordable Care Act, it makes no sense that our Governor would now move to take them out of the process in Connecticut, when they have been a part of it for many years.

Over two years ago, the department of Social Services began making changes to the Acquired Brain Injury Waiver that were not in the best interest of our survivors. In the past two years, the families and supporters of brain injury have had to be diligent in our fight for our survivors against changes that have a negative impact. Our input is essential to ensure you have an accurate picture of the true needs of all waiver participants.

These hearings have been instrumental in giving you, our legislators critical information on the needs of the brain injury community.

These hearings give our survivors a voice. Without their input the information you receive is not balanced and does not give you the opportunity to weigh the needs of the disabled against the desires of the Department of Social Services.

Through these hearings we have already begun to see that you are hearing our needs and acting with as much information as can be provided to make an informed decision on each issue.

- Because of these hearings the legislative advisory committee for brain injury was formed.
- Because of these hearings you get a better understanding of the needs of brain injury survivors before you vote on issues that are vital to them.
- Because of these hearings when the Department of Social Services presented a plan for privatization, members of our legislature recognized that it was not in the best interest of our survivors and rejected it when it was time to vote.

Please do not silence the voices of the most vulnerable citizens of the State of Connecticut – the people who rely on vital state services to live their lives.

Respectfully,

Mary Waitt

