

February 9, 2016

Testimony for the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities – 2/9/16
Senator Beth Bye, Representative Toni Walker and all members of the Appropriations
Committee, I am Sheila Mulvey of Plantsville CT. I speak to urge you to keep the Office of
Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities fiscally sound in order to most effectively
protect the human and civil rights of people with disabilities in our state.

I am the parent of an adult son who has developmental disabilities with an enormous will to
succeed as independently as possible in our society. He courageously faces daily challenges to
reach his goals at work, at home and in the community. There is always an overriding concern
for his safety and for any infringement on his rights. He is the kindest and most giving person
that I know and he deserves respect and a safe and equal opportunity to live, work and enjoy all
that CT has to offer. OPA works tirelessly to create a just environment in CT that will protect
the rights and safety of my son and thousands of others with disabilities.

I have known OPA for three decades and I said this before in testimony when I feel they need
your support –“ I sleep better at night knowing that the Office of Protection and Advocacy is
here in CT.” OPA is a small state agency that carries a huge mission and operates effectively
and efficiently with a limited budget . Please protect their budget so they may continue to be
strong for us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sheila Mulvey