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**SB 246: AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-WIDE WAITING LIST FOR RESIDENCIAL PLACEMENT FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILIITES.**

**HB 5808 AN ACT TO STREAMLINING FILING ACROSS THE STATE AGENCIES FOR FAMILIS RECEIVEING SERVICES FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENAL SERVICES**

**SB 244: AN ACT CONCERNING IMPROVING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

I am writing as an advocate and parent of a 24 year old Son with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities in favor of bills being presented to the Public Health Committee, as follows:

**SB 246:** This bill will assist both legislators and DDS in planning for the future of individuals with I/DD. State agencies and Legislators would have to agree that planning is meaningless without actual data and up-to-date information on the clients they serve. The collection of information can easily be incorporated in the annual planning process that currently exists; and therefore, would not create any financial burden. It will, however, provide Appropriations with the actual information as to planning for those waiting for services

**HB 5808.** This bill will elevate the numerous redetermination forms required by the various agencies for those receiving services. By streamlining the process and removing additional burden from families already faced with daily challenges of caring for a loved one with I/DD, this bill is long overdue. Personally, in the past I've had to take days off from work to get the paperwork completed and returned to find that there were issues in the completion of the forms and services denied. These forms, by the way, are not required by the Federal Government, but the State.

**SB 244:** While this bill does not have specific language as of yet, seeks to formalize an ID Partnership in which families, DDS, and other stakeholders have the opportunity to work jointly in an effort to ensure improved communication and transparency to families. During the past year, many legislators and families worked diligently in this direction and, as a result, Public Act 16-60 was passed during the last session. This act required DDS to provide families with information regarding request for services, decisions on the requests, level of needs as well as priority status. During that time, there was a verbal agreement that DDS would meet with families for transparency and methods in which families would receive up-to-date information. With the change in administration and the need to continue to move forward, it would be warranted to have formal language provided within the bill.

These bills determine the lives and needs of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is imperative that we continue to move forward to serve this population that has no voice.

