

Arlene Reith
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S.B. No. 463
Public Health Committee Hearing
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My name is Arlene Reith, I am the adoptive mother of a daughter, age 21 born with Down syndrome.

A Patient Safety advocate for those with IDD,
and serve on the CT DDS Council of Developmental Services.

My husband and myself are aging out, and are confident that our daughter, Sarah, will outlive us. It is a fact that due to better health care, persons with Down syndrome are living longer lives.. Estimates suggest that 50% or more of people with Down syndrome will develop dementia due to Alzheimer's disease as they age. Although not all people with Down syndrome will develop the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, however, those that do will begin to show symptoms of Alzheimer's disease in their 50s or 60s.
(National Institute on Aging)

My father had developed Alzheimer's in his mid 70s and had regressed to infancy over a period of five years. He was fortunate to have been able to be cared for at home with round the clock nursing. however, a large percentage of patients **without** ID- with Alzheimer's, will spend their last years in a nursing home. However, the staff in nursing homes are not trained to care for the intellectually disabled, and those who have ID cannot all remain in their communities as they age.

I hope the task force called for in SB 463 will create a thoughtful and appropriate facility to provide the care for our daughter Sarah and others with her disability should they develop Alzheimer's or dementia in their later years.