

March 13, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislative Committee,

My name is Imelda Reno and I live in Canton, CT. I am a parent of Marie Reno who has I/DD. I am testifying today in support of SB 296- AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO SERVE PEOPLE SEEKING RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE. I support this bill because it expands the current menu of supported living options to include things such as shared living arrangements, housing clusters, community companion homes and the use of assistive technology while not eliminating any current options such as Community Living Arrangements (CLA), aka group homes or Continuous Residential Supports (CRS). This bill gives individuals with I/DD and families who currently have no hope a path to receive the supports they need before they are in crisis.

I also support SB 400 - AN ACT CONCERNING GRADUATE FUNDING AND THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY. I support this bill because it would guarantee Employment and Day funding for new graduates with I/DD, provide much needed wage increases for employees at the community non-profits and create a training and development committee for workers. This bill would certainly give peace of mind to families who have an individual graduating with I/DD because they would be assured that their child would not be sitting and waiting to find out if /when they would be funded.

I DO NOT SUPPORT SB 463 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FACILITIES AND RESOURCES PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY because it would create a task force to examine re-purposing nursing homes and rehabilitation centers to house people with I/DD. Why OH why would we consider going backwards in time? It has been proven that seniors can live in their community with proper support why are individuals with I/DD any different???

Non-profit community based providers have expertise in supporting people with I/DD across their lifespan. Nursing homes are for profit entities and their cost of care is exorbitant. *Scarce resources should not be used in for profit institutions when community base services are less costly and provide a better quality of life.*

***Please consider supporting bill SB 296 AND SB 400. Please oppose bill SB 463.***

Thank you for your time and all that you do to support individuals with I/DD.

*Sincerely,*

*Imelda Reno  
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