

14 March 2018
THE ARC NEW LONDON COUNTY SERVING FAMILIES AND PEOPLE
WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOR 65 YEARS

Dear Honorable Members of the *Legislative Committee*:

My name is *Kathleen Stauffer* and I live in *Mystic, Connecticut*. I am testifying today in *opposition* of [SB 463 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FACILITIES AND RESOURCES PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY](#).

1. **SB 463 WOULD IMPLEMENT STATE-MANDATED APARTHEID AGAINST PEOPLE WITH IDD.** This bill makes no sense from a fiscal, practical or civil rights standpoint. **At a time when ALL other states are wisely moving from institutional models, Connecticut inexplicably refuses to shut its institutions and looks for excuses to maintain them.** This is outrageously expensive, counterintuitive to national trends – and it violates the civil rights of people with IDD.
2. **WHO WE ARE.** The Arc NLC is a **65-year-old, grassroots agency in Southeastern Connecticut founded by families** looking for NON-INSTITUTIONAL opportunities for **loved ones.** Driven by a philosophy that every person *can* be independent, **The Arc walks with people on this journey.**
3. **WHO WE SERVE.** The Arc NLC serves **600+ people with I/DD** in Southeastern Connecticut with a **constituent network of more than 1,500 voters.** Services range **from residential to in-home supports to employment services.** The Arc's Community Life & Advocacy program, funded by public events and United Way of SE CT, provides **critical respite to 155 adults and families, support groups for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse, Special Olympics and rides to the polls so people with I/DD can vote.** The Arc New London County's Volunteer Corps donates **approximately 1,000 service hours valued at nearly \$5,000 annually.**
4. **JOBS.** The Arc NLC employs **more than 300 adults contributing more than \$6,000,000** in wages to SE CT's economy. **Nearly 30% of employees are minorities and 72.7% are women.**
5. **ECONOMIC IMPACT.** The Arc NLC spends **\$1 million each year on gasoline, fuel oil, groceries, office supplies, hardware, furniture and health insurance alone** and is a leader in advocating for economic recovery in Connecticut.

Please oppose this bill! It threatens the civil rights of every person with IDD in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Stauffer
Chief Executive Officer