

March 15, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Fran Traceski and I live in Canton Connecticut. I am the father of a 25 year old daughter who was born with an intellectual disability. Today I am asking you to vote **Yes on SB296 and SB400** and to vote **No on SB463**

1. Vote **YES** on SB296

This Bill will allow for flexibility in the development of creative and more affordable housing options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It will provide answers to the question of how we as a State can continually evolve to a better quality of life and more cost effective situation for these citizens. The bill will encourage the use of supportive technology tailored to an individual's needs thus reducing the need for hands on support. The goal of any housing options for people like my daughter and anyone with an intellectual disability should be the creation of mixed communities that allow for disabled and non-disabled people to live side by side. As we will shortly demonstrate with the Arc of the Farmington Valley's IDASH supported apartment complexes in Bloomfield and Canton, this is also the most cost effective way to provide housing options.

Living as independently as possible and being contributing members of a vibrant community is the goal that we all have for our children and is no less the goal for our children and relatives with intellectual disabilities. This bill serve to create efficiencies that will allow for scarce resources to be used to help ever more people come off of waiting lists for housing support. It will allow for the continued development of new creative cost saving options as we evolve into the future. This is a win for everyone.

2. Vote **NO** on SB463

Placing people with intellectual disabilities in "Nursing Homes or Rehab Centers"? This is neither a cost saving option nor a solution that allows for any quality of life. This bill is a step into an ugly past where people with intellectual disabilities were shut away and kept out of the community. The Arc of the Farmington Valley where I am currently Board President was founded 60 years ago for the express purpose of saving our children from a fate such as this. Over that time our society has evolved far beyond a "just put them somewhere" mentality. We serve our citizens with intellectual disabilities over the entire span of their lives. Connecticut's citizens understand that every individual has value and must have the opportunity to become their best possible self. Please do not support this backwards facing Bill.

3. Vote **YES** on SB400

We spend the first 21 years in the lives of our sons and daughters with intellectual disabilities preparing them to come out into the world and achieve their personal best. It is critical that we not quit on them just when they reach the point of actually spreading their wings. All graduates

need the funding support to give them the services to make a transition to being contributing members of their respective communities. To them to keep growing and learning. This funding should not be the subject of an annual tug of war with parents left hanging waiting to find out if there is any future for their adult child. The number of individuals coming up through the school systems and even the level of funding that will be necessary is predictable for 10+ years prior to the time that it will be needed. There is no reason why we should not be able to plan for the funding needed under this bill in advance and build it into our budgets.

Please vote **Yes on SB296 and SB400.**

Please vote **NO on SB463.**

Thank you.

Francis J. Traceski
5 Deer Run Rd
Canton, CT 06019

Copy: Representative Tim LeGeyt, Senator Kevin Witkos