Senators Osten and Formica, Representatives Walker and Lavielle and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for making this opportunity for me and other members of the public to testify regarding Governor Lamont's proposed 2020-2021 biennial budget.

My name is Rick Rothstein, I am from West Hartford and the proud father of Spencer Rothstein, a 36 year old with intellectual disability including autism and a host of complex medical issues. Spencer has flourished in his 28 years in DDS licensed community living arrangements (CLA) operated by HARC, Inc. for the last 28 years as well as HARC, Inc. day programs for the last 15 years. Our family is very grateful for these supports.

I am a co-founder and Treasurer of CT DDS Families First, Chair of the North Region DDS Regional Advisory Council and member of the CT Council on Developmental Services,

I have reviewed and fully support the Department of Developmental Services' budget proposed by Governor Lamont and its many initiatives including full funding for day programs for high school graduates, some funding for emergency placements and new behavioral supports including enhanced family supports and a step-up step-down unit at the Hartford Regional Center. I am hopeful that the committee will include this portion of the governor’s proposed budget to the full legislature in its budget.

As the committee reviews this budget, the most complete data ever compiled on what has been referred to historically as the DDS Residential Waiting List. As a result of a legislative initiative started by Families First in 2017 (SB 246) (Public Act 1-61) and led by a broad bipartisan coalition co-led by Senator Osten, co-sponsored by more than 100 legislators and
passed unanimously by both chambers. We now know for the first time who is waiting, what type of supports they are waiting for, when they need it and where they need it. We are hopeful that you find this data, published quarterly, helpful in meeting the present and future needs of DDS families. Summaries of this data are attached to my testimony.

I will be glad to answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.