Testimony of
Marc Anthony Gallucci, Esq.
Appropriations Committee - 03/05/19

Center for Independent Living Funding

Good Evening Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Marc Anthony Gallucci, and I am the Executive Director and Chief Advocate of Center for Disability Rights based in West Haven and Clinton.

I am pleased to be before you for the first time in years, and not face a zero line item for Centers for Independent Living. However, we really do need for you to increase our appropriations.

I have testified many times in the past about how in 1989 we received around $800,000, and that the funding has been cut and cut and cut through the years while costs of providing services has gone up and up and up. I also have testified numerous times how Centers are providing services that are cost effective and even save the State millions in other long term care costs.

I appreciate the difficult job you have. But the cuts to the State's many services have resulted in a shift of people onto the Centers just at a time when we just don't have the resources to meet the demand. Case in point, you know full well that the State has decimated the entire Deaf and Hard of Hearing service infrastructure including the interpreting services. As a result, many people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing are coming to CDR and other Centers because they have absolutely no where else to go.
We are struggling to keep it together and we are trying our best. But you really need to help us. We need our funding restored.

I would like to share a sample of what other States are doing to fund their CILs. I have listed the following:

**State Funding of CILs in Select States**

**Michigan:** $12 million in State funding for 15 CILs $800,000 per CIL

**Massachusetts:** Just got an increase of $1.5 Million in State funding to bring total state funding to $6.5 million or $650,000 per CIL. 10 CILs

**New York:** Both houses of Legislature proposed an increase of $5 million to bring total State funding to $18 million for 41 CILs or $439,000 per CIL (currently $317,000 per CIL).

**New Jersey:** Governor is proposing $4 million base funding for New Jersey’s 13 CILs. This would amount to $307,692 per CIL. Currently the 5 State funded CILs in New Jersey receive a combined $625,000 or $125,000 each CIL from the State.

**Wisconsin:** State funding of $983,500 for 8 CILs or $123,000 per CIL.

Some years ago, Connecticut studied the issue of funding, and it determined that the minimum base funding level for a CT CIL is $550,000. At $60,000 in State funding plus $180,000 in Federal funding or $240,000 per CIL, we are $311,000 per CIL short of the need for minimum level of services and operations. Our State appropriations are $1,560,000 less than our needs.

I thank you for your serious consideration to our request.

Marc Anthony Gallucci