

**Testimony IN FAVOR of HB-5156 AN ACT CONCERNING FIRST RESPONDER
TRAINING FOR INCIDENTS INVOLVING JUVENILES WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDER AND NONVERBAL LEARNING DISORDER.**

by Walter Glomb
Director, Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities

Good afternoon. My name is Walter Glomb. I am the Director of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities. I am also a parent of a thirty-year-old man who has Down syndrome and who has a keen interest in how law enforcement and other first responders deal with individuals who have developmental disabilities.

I am here to day to testify in favor of this bill and to respectfully request that it be amended to include adults and people who have intellectual disabilities.

Sadly, people who have Down syndrome or other intellectual disabilities are sometimes misunderstood by first responders and first responders sometimes misinterpret the actions people who have intellectual; disabilities. The consequences of these misunderstandings and misinterpretations can be tragic.

Training for law enforcement and other first responders is needed in order to enable them to protect and serve people with autism, nonverbal learning disorder and intellectual disabilities.

Thank you.