

TESTIMONY OF TOM FIORENTINO IN SUPPORT OF SB 273  
AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER DUAL  
DELIVERY OF STATE-ADMINISTERED HUMAN SERVICES BY  
COMMUNITY NONPROFIT AGENCIES

I am the father of a 29 year old child with an intellectual disability. He lives with my wife and me in West Hartford. I am also an Arc of Connecticut board member and advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

In both capacities, I have learned far more about Connecticut's delivery of services to people with I/DD than I ever thought I would. Our system is a disaster, caused in large part by an unthinking refusal to acknowledge what every objective analysis shows: the public sector- as *currently* used- consumes a vastly disproportionate share of scarce resources, making Connecticut's I/DD services inaccessible to thousands.

I would also bring to your attention that, at least as regards I/DD, this matter has already been studied exhaustively. I hope that, unlike too many in the past administration, the members of the new panel created by this legislation, do not ignore the existing research and analysis.

In 2012 the Program Review and Investigations Committee (a source of objective analysis since abolished by the very people who need objectivity most) concluded that because of the hugely disproportionate cost of the public sector, Connecticut's I/DD delivery system was unsustainable.

Since then, the years have proven that PRI's conclusion was correct (universally disregarded by the public sector's defenders, but correct nonetheless).

Candidly, I find it infuriating that while thousands wait for services, the legislature wants to once again study something that it already studied- as thoroughly and as comprehensively as possible- in 2012.

And I wonder- if the new panel reaches the same inevitable conclusion that was reached in 2012 by the nonpartisan Program Review and Investigations Committee- will its recommendations be similarly ignored? Or will the interests of people with I/DD finally become the priority of those entrusted to serve them?