PUBLIC HEARING ON DDS BILLS!
Friday, March 16, 2018
11:00 A.M.
Legislative Office Building (LOB), Room 2B
300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

On Friday, the Public Health Committee will hold a public hearing on 3 important bills for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Two of these bills will move us forward by providing supports for people on the waiting list, expanding supported living options for people with I/DD, guaranteeing funding for new graduates and taking steps towards fair compensation for the staff who support your loved ones. One bill will move us backwards by exploring nursing homes as a residential option for people with I/DD.

Each of the bills has the potential to have a profound impact on the future of services and supports for people with I/DD. Legislators will make their decisions based upon what they hear from the public. *Your future is in your hands, what do you want it to look like? Don’t miss your chance to tell legislators what you think!*

1. **SB 296 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO SERVE PEOPLE SEEKING RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.**
   The Arc Connecticut supports this bill which establishes a pilot program to encourage providers to offer more supported living options, to allow people who are capable of greater independence the option to choose less restrictive supports, and for providers to use the savings achieved to serve more people.
   
   - This bill gives people with I/DD and families who currently have no hope, a path to finally receive the supports they need before they are in crisis.
   
   - This bill expands current the menu of supported living options to include things such as shared living arrangements, housing clusters, community companion homes, and the use of assistive technology.
   
   - This bill does not eliminate any current options such as Community Living Arrangements (CLA), aka group homes, or Continuous Residential Supports (CRS).

2. **SB 463 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FACILITIES AND RESOURCES PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**
   The Arc Connecticut does not support this bill because it would create a task force to examine re-purposing nursing homes and rehabilitation centers to house people with I/DD.
• This is not a solution to the waiting list crisis and people with I/DD do not belong in nursing homes!

• Since 2005 CT has moved nearly 5,000 seniors and people with disabilities out of nursing homes to age in place with supports in the community. Why do people with I/DD deserve any less?

• Non-profit community based providers have expertise in supporting people with I/DD across their lifespan. Legislators should be investing in strengthening our current system of community supports.

• Nursing homes are for profit entities and the cost of care is exorbitant. Scarce resources should not be used in for profit institutions when community based services are less costly and provide a better quality of life.

3. SB 400 - AN ACT CONCERNING GRADUATE FUNDING AND THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.

The Arc Connecticut supports this bill which would guarantee Employment and Day funding for new graduates with I/DD, provide much needed wage increases for employees at community non-profits, and create a training and development committee for workers.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Whether you plan come to Hartford to testify in person or you submit testimony via email, don't miss the opportunity to have your voice heard! The future of supports for people with I/DD depends on it.

• Email us at thearcct@gmail.com if you plan to come to the hearing. We will meet you there!

• The Public Health Committee is accepting testimony via email at phtestimony@cga.ct.gov Please submit electronic testimony in Word or PDF format no later than 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 15, 2018. (Click here for a template for writing testimony.)

• If you are unable to submit electronic testimony, please submit 10 copies of your written testimony no later than 9:30 A.M. on Friday, March 16, 2018 in Room 3000 of the LOB.

• To testify in person - Follow the steps above and then sign-up to testify at the hearing at 9:30 A.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB.

For more information, contact Shannon Jacovino at sjacovino@thearcct.org.