The pandemic experience across the U.S. has shown that congregate settings are far more dangerous places for people with disabilities to live than community-based settings due to their shared meal and common use spaces. The vast majority of social science indicates that health, satisfaction, and quality of life measures increase as people with disabilities move from congregate settings to community settings.

Despite this experience and data, Connecticut remains a state with well above average reliance on congregate settings for people with disabilities to receive support, convalesce, and live. This continued reliance on institutional supports not only denies people the opportunity for a full life in the community, but its disproportionate cost is a reason why so many of your constituents are denied the funding they need to begin their lives in the community.

We need to expand the array of community support options, so that people who receive these supports have a genuine choice to live in the community.