Via Email

Bob Joondeph  
Interim Director  
Disability Rights Connecticut  
846 Wethersfield Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06114  

Re: Protecting the Rights of Members of the Disability Community

Dear Mr. Joondeph:

Thank you for your letter of April 2, which we received and carefully reviewed.

As you know, Connecticut has not promulgated rules dictating how limited resources should be triaged to people who are ill with the coronavirus. But we want to assure you that, as Connecticut navigates the crisis posed by the spread of the coronavirus, the state will continue to be guided by the best science, medical judgment, and public health expertise. The Attorney General's Office of course recognizes the state’s obligation to act consistently with applicable laws and with our federal and state constitutions. Our response to this crisis will always be informed by our deeply held values of fairness and equity.

Discrimination against people with disabilities is illegal and simply wrong. Assessments of the dignity and worth of individuals are moral, and not legal or medical, questions – but, in any event, I unhesitatingly reaffirm what in a fair and just society should go without saying: people with disabilities have inherent worth and dignity that is equal to all people.

I share your conviction that medical care should never be allocated based on stereotypes, biases, or subjective moral determinations of worth. Instead, decisions about medical care should be based on individualized assessments, hard scientific evidence, and the best medical judgment.

I am not aware of any instances of inappropriate, illegal, or discriminatory rationing of care in Connecticut and will remain vigilant in responding to any allegations of such discrimination. I look forward to partnering with you, and with the broader disability advocacy community, as we move forward to protect the lives, health, and rights of all Connecticut residents.

Very truly yours,

William Tong

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