

## TESTIMONY TO APPOPRIATIONS 2020

My name is Michael Warburton and I am from Waterbury Connecticut. I am here to testify on behalf of the Centers for Independent Living in our state. I am requesting that the Centers for Independent Living be funded with an increase of 650,000.00 . Centers for Independent Living are life lines to many of our citizens that are living with disabilities. This includes a vast array of people, including students, veterans, elders, working people, nursing home residents etc. Centers for Independent Living provide a multitude of services to persons in our state to ensure great independence and freedom. Centers have been operating with decreased funding for many years

As some of you may know, Centers for Independent Living are also contracted with the Department of Social Services to provide both transition and housing coordination services to persons under the Money Follows the Person Project which assists individuals in long term care in nursing facilities to return to life in the community with services, supports and housing. Fully funding the Centers for Independent Living will enable the centers to continue to do this important work. Centers for Independent Living are the only entity mandated by the federal government to transition persons out of institutions and we have been doing so long before there were special programs to do so. The most experienced transition coordinators in this state are all staff of Centers for Independent Living. Money Follows the Person, as many of you probably know, is saving the state Medicaid system a great deal by offering persons the opportunity to receive their services at home rather than in a costly institution.

During this difficult time of balancing priorities, I would ask that the Appropriations Committee look closely at the option of fully funding Centers of Independent Living in Connecticut.

Sincerely,  
Michael S. Warburton