

## Appropriations Hearing

### H.B. 6430 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREAFTER

Hello members of the Committee:

I'm Dawn DeMatteo, a resident of Wallingford. I am a single Mom of a 29-year old, severely disabled child requiring 24/7 care. Our lives were changed dramatically 5 years ago when my son Anthony received funding for residential placement after a decade of being on the waiting list. As a family, we were at the end of our rope. Working full time and depending upon my 13-year old Son to care for his older brother so I could work was destroying our family. The waiting list still exists and now more than ever with the COVID 19 pandemic families that have their loved ones at home are in desperate need of supports. More and more are in need of emergency placement

A quick snapshot of life now – Anthony is loving his life in a group home with four other IDD individuals and 24/7 caring staff. My younger Son was finally able to be a teenager and not have the burden of caregiving.

Anthony is loving his group home because of the caring staff. I would like to bring to your attention the amount of work and responsibility required to care for my Son and others like him. These workers and the non-profit agencies employing them need funding. How can someone with this level of responsibility have the same income as those working at a fast food venue to grocery store? It simply does not make sense. They are responsible for individual's lives and need to be focused non-stop when at their job. These non-profit agencies are life lines for families that have children/adults with IDD.

Legislators and the Governor need to understand the need for funding these agencies.

Dawn DeMatteo  
Wallingford