

Testimony to the Appropriations Committee

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Sharon Serow, a resident of CT and parent of a disabled child who is supported by the Department of Developmental Disabilities, DDS. I am grateful for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 6439, CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

As the parent of an adult disabled child, I am speaking on her behalf and on behalf of our family. Our child is able to develop as an individual and to work as an important member of her community and society because of MARC, Inc. of Manchester, (a member of the ARC of CT), and JCL, who are agencies supported through DDS funding. Without this essential funding being provided by DDS to these 2 non-profit agencies, our child would not be able to function and continue as a happy, healthy and working member of our State of CT. Through MARC, Inc. and JCL, our child is able to work and to grow as an adult resident of CT, contributing to our community.

Our child's quality of life is dependent on the support of these agencies. She could not have functioned throughout this pandemic without MARC, JCL and DDS. Disabled people like our adult child are worthy members of our state and community and should always be valued as members of our society. Both MARC, Inc. and JCL always treat their disabled clients with care and genuine respect and concern.

PLEASE increase the funding to DDS to ensure the continuity of services and to provide fair and equitable wages to the very important, dedicated and valued staff who provide the necessary and much appreciated services to our disabled, special needs individuals.

Your support is vital to the quality of life of this vulnerable population.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Sharon Serow
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South Windsor, CT