

26 February 2021

THE ARC EASTERN CONNECTICUT – SERVING FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WITH  
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOR 69 YEARS

**Dear Representative Garibay and Representative Winkler and Honorable Members of the  
Legislative Committee:**

My name is *Kathleen Stauffer* and I live in Mystic. I am Chief Executive officer of **The Arc Eastern Connecticut**, and I am testifying IN SUPPORT of [HB 5811 – An Act Expanding The Bottle Bill to Nip Bottles](#)

1. A SCOURGE ON ROADS, WATERWAYS AND HIKING TRAILS! The Arc Eastern Connecticut's Woodstock redemption center processes more than 1,000,000 bottles and cans per year. **Recycling nips will provide additional jobs – and independence – for people with Intellectual Disability at minimum wage or higher.** Data shows redemption fees work and putting a 25-cent bounty on nips will go a long way in removing **the unsightly and unsanitary nips that litter our beautiful state.** During just four strolls in a 2.2 mile stretch of my neighborhood last year, my partner and I collected enough nips to fill one entire 40+ gallon-sized garbage bag of nips (Please see photos on page 2 following this testimony). Nips are proven vehicles of addiction, encourage drinking and driving, and litter the paths that our children walk to the bus stop.
2. WHO WE ARE. The Arc ECT is a **69-year-old, grassroots agency in Eastern Connecticut founded by families** looking for NON-INSTITUTIONAL opportunities for **loved ones.**
3. WHO WE SERVE. The Arc ECT serves **900+ people with IDD** in Eastern Connecticut with a **constituent network of more than 2,500 voters.** Services range **from residential to in-home supports to employment services.** The Arc's Community Life & Advocacy program, funded by public events and United Way of SE CT, provides **critical respite to 200+ adults and families, support groups for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse, Special Olympics and rides to the polls so people with IDD can vote.**
4. JOBS. **The Arc ECT employs more than 440 adults contributing more than \$9,000,000** in wages to EASTERN CT's economy. Nearly 30% of employees are minorities and 72.7% are women.
5. ECONOMIC IMPACT. **The Arc ECT spends \$1.5 million each year on gasoline, fuel oil, groceries, office supplies, hardware, furniture and health insurance alone** and is a leader in advocating for the economic well-being of Connecticut.

***Please support jobs for people with IDD in Connecticut by supporting HB 5811!***

*Sincerely,*  
Kathleen Stauffer  
Chief Executive Officer

