



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Jordan A. Scheff
Acting Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

March 7, 2017

Senators Gerratana and Somers, Representatives Steinberg and Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Jordan A. Scheff, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify and share concerns about **Proposed [S.B. No. 38](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.**

The bill is drafted quite broadly and proposes to “prevent disruption to current residents of residential facilities operated by the state and offering long-term services, lodging, care or treatment to persons with an intellectual or developmental disability.”

Without a clear understanding of what is meant by this proposed language, I would offer that the Connecticut General Statutes already clarify DDS’s role to ensure proper levels of care for individuals with intellectual disability and provide measures to address concerns or when an individual or his or her family disagrees with a decision regarding such care.

For example, section 17a-210(b) CGS states that the Commissioner may transfer an individual from a public or state-supported private institution to another when necessary and desirable for the individual’s welfare, provided that the individual or his or her legal representative receives written notice of their right to object to such transfer at least ten days prior to the proposed transfer.

Families also are afforded opportunities to request Regional Programmatic Administrative Reviews (PARs) when in disagreement with a DDS decision regarding level of care. Additionally, families may request a Commissioner-level review if they disagree with a Regional PAR decision.

For these reasons, this legislation is not necessary.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony on **Proposed [S.B. No. 38](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.** I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time. You may also contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066 with additional questions.