



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



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 on **Proposed S.B. No. 39 AN ACT CONCERNING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE QUALITY SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.**

The proposed bill, broadly, requires the Department of Developmental Services to design a plan to harness the combined strengths of the public and private sectors to provide continuum of care options, improve jobs and reduce the waiting list for services and supports for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Without having more details on how the bill would propose to achieve these goals, I offer the following testimony:

I do not believe that legislation is necessary to further these goals and would direct you to Governor Malloy's proposed budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 which addresses the purpose of this legislation in the following ways:

Governor Malloy's proposed budget invests \$3.3 million in FY 2018, annualized at \$3.8 million in FY 2019, to support a number of new Intellectual Disability (ID) Partnership initiatives for individuals with intellectual disability and their families. The ID Partnership was formed last spring to help Connecticut better coordinate services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The primary work of the group during the past year has been an examination of rates and development of a plan for direct Medicaid billing. These discussions led to the creation of an inventory of existing services. The \$3.8 million in annualized funding will develop models that can fill gaps identified in that service inventory like (1) mobile crisis capabilities and assertive community treatment that can prevent Emergency Department visits or emergency placements, (2) addressing the residential waiting list, and (3) stabilizing providers undergoing conversion of DDS grant-funded services to Medicaid fee-for-service payments. The Governor's proposed funding recognizes that Connecticut must invest in our system in a way that will broaden our continuum of supports, allow for flexibility and innovation and ensure long-range sustainability.

The budget also includes \$350,000, annualized to \$1.4 million, to support wrap-around services and rental assistance for up to 70 individuals with intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder residing in new supportive housing units anticipated to open in late FY 2019.

Additionally, DDS has a history of working closely with the private provider community. Over the years, DDS has communicated regularly with the provider agencies to collaborate on ways to improve services and systems.

In the past year, DDS, through its Educational Support and Staff Development division has resurrected the “Training Task Force” which is a public/private partnership group that meets at least quarterly to network and collaborate on training matters and issues that can improve our overall operations. Most private providers are represented by either their training coordinators or a member of their executive teams. While DDS facilitates those meetings, agenda items are jointly agreed upon.

That collaboration has already produced results with the development of a new *abuse and neglect prevention in human rights curriculum* last May. It is important to note that DDS and its private partners collaborate on a number of important training matters and DDS shares its curriculum with them. We offer “train the trainer” opportunities on a variety of topics including medication administration and safe eating and drinking guidelines, for example.

As a result of these efforts, we have seen increased interest from private providers to participate in events offered by the training task force and we are working on developing both regional and local steering committees to address more pertinent areas that will enhance our overall service delivery and support to persons with intellectual disability.

I would be happy to discuss any of these proposed initiatives in greater detail with you.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony on **Proposed [S.B. No. 39](#) AN ACT CONCERNING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE QUALITY SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**. 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.