



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
February 28, 2018**

Senators Gerratana and Somers, Representatives Steinberg and Betts and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **H.B. No. 5155 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WAIVER OF LICENSING FEES FOR PRIVATE PROVIDERS.**

This proposal allows the DDS Commissioner to waive a \$50 licensing application fee that is currently required of private providers who apply to operate DDS licensed Community Living Arrangements (CLAs) or “group homes”. There is an identified administrative burden associated with the submission and processing of the fee (the provider submits the fee to DDS, who sends it to the Office of the State Treasurer, and the fee eventually ends up in the General Fund). Additionally, the fee is an allowable cost for providers which means that in many cases the state ends up paying for it anyways.

In an effort to Lean DDS’s licensure process for community living arrangements and reduce provider burdens, the elimination of processing and collecting the licensing fee was identified as a potential process efficiency.

An additional efficiency that was identified was eliminating the requirement that licensing applications be notarized given the increase reliance on electronic submission methods such as the use of the state’s eLicensing and Biznet systems. Therefore, DDS would like to request that the language “Such licensing applications shall not be required to be notarized.” be added to the end of this proposal which amends subsection (c) of section 17a-227 of the Connecticut General Statutes to eliminate a DDS regulatory provision that provider applications be notarized.

This proposal, with the suggested amendment, along with other Lean related proposals before the Public Health Committee this session, is a step in the right direction for both the department and our private provider partners as we continue to improve and evolve the service system by lessening administrative burdens and focusing more on the needs of individuals with intellectual disability who we support.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of **H.B. No. 5155 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WAIVER OF LICENSING FEES FOR PRIVATE PROVIDERS.** 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.

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