



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 GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**March 19, 2018**

Senators McLachlan and Flexer, Representatives Fox and Devlin and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony in support of section 5 of **S.B. No. 502 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND.**

Section 5 of the bill conveys a parcel of land known as the Ella Grasso Regional Center to the town of Stratford. DDS has not operated a residential program for individuals with intellectual disability at the Ella Grasso Regional Center since 2016. The only presence DDS maintains at the property currently, and for the foreseeable future, is in the administration building which is the main office for 57 staff including 25 case managers, several professional dental clinic staff and multiple other staff who provide support to the entire west region. The Town of Stratford recently signed a lease with DDS to utilize, operate and maintain the natatorium (pool building).

The Department of Developmental Services and Department of Administrative Services (DAS), the Office of Policy and Management, the Office of the Governor, officials from the town of Stratford and the Stratford delegation have all worked together over the past year to explore options regarding the future of this property and recently have arrived at an agreement.

DDS is supportive of the town of Stratford taking over the majority of this property and its associated costs (minus the Administration building). Stratford will use the property for municipal purposes and affordable housing. The agreement that was reached is that the property will remain in use by the town or it will revert back to the state. Several details are still being worked out between DDS and Stratford which will be operationalized in an MOU including such items as utility costs, plowing, landscape and maintenance needs and parking.

An official survey of the property will be the required first step to moving the conveyance forward. DDS has already reached out to the town to set up a meeting regarding the decisions that still need to be made as outlined above. DAS is working on substitute language to represent the conveyance within the parameters as currently agreed to by all parties. DDS looks forward to continued collaboration with all the parties on this conveyance.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding section 5 of **S.B. No. 502 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND.** You may contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066 with any questions.