



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

March 17, 2014

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of DDS's agency bill, [S.B. No. 463](#) - **An Act Concerning the Appointment of a Conservator for a Person with Intellectual Disability**.

Connecticut General Statutes § 45a-650 requires that for the appointment of an involuntary conservator, the court needs evidence from a licensed physician on the respondent's condition and his or her ability to care for his or herself. This bill would allow a licensed psychologist to present evidence to the court in cases where a person has intellectual disability. For individuals with intellectual disability, sometimes a psychologist has the best vantage and the most appropriate training to weigh in on the required evidence.

This change only would apply to persons with intellectual disability and therefore would not impact the conservatorship for any other persons.

During a hearing for a conservator of a person with intellectual disability, DDS had an instance where a primary care physician did not feel competent to make the determination and requested a neuropsychological exam to answer the statutory questions surrounding the need for a conservator. DDS then had to engage a neuropsychologist to do an evaluation at substantial cost, when the evaluation could have been performed more appropriately by a psychologist at far less cost. Licensed psychologists are fully capable and qualified to present the best evidence to the courts in cases of involuntary conservatorship of a person with intellectual disability.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of [S.B. No. 463](#). Please contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066, if you have any questions for us regarding this bill.