



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Acting Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
GENERAL BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE**

MARCH 28, 2017

Good afternoon Senators Fonfara and McLachlan, Representatives Miller and Floren and distinguished members of the General Bonding Subcommittee. I am Jordan A. Scheff, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Mary Fuller, Chief of Fiscal and Administrative Services, and Warren Schilling, Plant Facility Engineer 2, are here to assist me in answering any questions you may have. Thank you for allowing me to testify on **S.B. No. 788 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

We come before the subcommittee today to present DDS's plan for utilizing unallocated bond fund balances as well as the Governor's recommended bond authorizations of \$5 million in FY18 and \$5 million in FY19 for the department as proposed in **S.B. No. 788**. Nearly 17,000 individuals and their families have been determined eligible for some type of support from DDS. DDS-operated or state-owned facilities represent an inventory of approximately 1.7 million square feet of campus-setting (ICF/IID), group home, and administrative office space across Connecticut. The buildings were built in the range of years from 1760 to 2002. The systems range from residential utility systems to major power plants, and campus utility distribution systems. Code requirements touch almost all chapters of the life safety code as well as extensive ADA, OSHA, environmental, health, and building code requirements. It is essential that DDS has accessible funds to immediately initiate corrective action when code, safety, health, or emergency conditions develop. This funding is critical to continue safe operations for the individuals we serve.

DDS maintains federal Medicaid waiver assurances that require a level of quality care for individuals who receive funding and services from our department. Maintaining Medicaid waiver assurances has allowed the state to collect Federal Financial Participation (FFP) reimbursement in excess of \$525 million in FY16 for DDS services. Access to capital funding and bonding resources is a critical component in DDS compliance with federal Medicaid waiver assurances and Department of Public Health (DPH) Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) certification standards so that necessary repairs and improvements can be made to our facilities as required.

DDS also supports provisions in Section 32 of the proposed bill for (1) grants-in-aid to private, non-profit health and human services providers for a variety of items and (2) funding for the Department of Housing for grants-in-aid to private non-profit organizations for supportive housing for persons with intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder or both. These bond items will ultimately result in improved services for individuals supported by DDS.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of **S.B. No. 788 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.** I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time. You also may contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Executive and Legislative Affairs at (860) 418-6066 with additional questions.

Phone: 860 418-6000 ♦ TDD 860 418-6079 ♦ Fax: 860 418-6001
460 Capitol Avenue ♦ Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.ct.gov/dds ♦ e-mail: ddsct.co@ct.gov
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