



**State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services**

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

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 in support of our agency bill **S.B. No. 839 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING TECHNICAL AND MINOR REVISIONS TO ITS STATUTES AND REFERENCES TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**

S.B. No. 839 makes several small changes to DDS statutes and other state agencies' statutes that directly impact DDS and the persons we serve. **Section 1** of the bill changes the criteria of the House Majority Leader's appointment to the Council on Developmental Services from a person with autism spectrum disorder receiving services from the DDS Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services to "a relative or guardian of a person with intellectual disability." The reason for this change is that DDS's Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services in the 2016 session was transferred to the Department of Social Services (DSS). **Sections 2, 3 and 4** of the bill change "intellectual disabilities" to "intellectual disability" to mirror the term defined in section 1-1g of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). **Section 5** changes the term "day programs" to "employment opportunities and day services" to better reflect DDS's emphasis on employment as a goal for persons with intellectual disability and to align section 20-101 CGS with DDS's use of "employment opportunities and day services" in DDS statute.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Public Health Committee, past and present, who have supported our department's efforts to change the way persons with intellectual disability are referred to both in statute and in everyday life. Throughout this ongoing process, the members of this committee have met with and encouraged our advocates to continue this transition to the use of respectful and appropriate terms throughout Connecticut statutes.

Thank you again for your continued support of DDS and persons with intellectual disability in Connecticut. My staff and I would be happy to answer any questions that you have on **S.B. No. 839**. Please contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs, at (860) 418-6066 if you would like additional information from DDS.