



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
February 27, 2013**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **Proposed H.B. No. 6001 AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**. This bill seeks to address the need for residential and community services for young adults with developmental disabilities by establishing a pilot program for supportive and sustainable residential communities for young adults with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder.

With not much detail on what this pilot program involves, it is difficult for DDS to differentiate this proposal from the services and supports already provided by the department to person's of all ages with intellectual disability. Individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual disability are currently eligible for DDS services based on their level of need and within available appropriations. Individuals with autism, but not intellectual disability, would be eligible for non-residential services under the new autism waiver, also based on level of need and within available appropriations.

It is unclear what "supportive and sustainable residential communities" refers to. If this "community" were to be just for individuals with intellectual disability or autism, it would be a segregated community based upon an individual's disability. DDS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver funding would not support a segregated community because this funding requires that individuals be served in the least restrictive setting possible in the community. Medicaid reimbursement through the HCBS waivers is a funding mechanism for placements in lieu of institutionalization and cannot be used to re-segregate these individuals. DDS is always willing to discuss creative supports for the individuals we serve, but without specific details of this pilot and without guarantees that it would not segregate our consumers, we cannot support this bill. Additionally, there would be cost implications for such a pilot. Governor Malloy's proposed increase in funding for the Autism Division in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 are targeted at recommendations from the Autism Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study Group intentionally decided to focus on building a capacity for in-home supports as opposed to creating residential options.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this HB 6001. Please contact Christine Pollio Cooney, Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066 with any questions.

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