



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 7, 2019**

Senators Moore and Logan, Representatives Abercrombie and Case and members of the Human Services Committee. I am Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **H.B. No. 7231 AN ACT EXPANDING THE ADULT FAMILY LIVING-FOSTER CARE PROGRAM TO PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.**

This bill seeks to expand the Adult Family Living-Foster Care program offered through the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) Medicaid waiver to individuals' age 18 through 64 years of age with intellectual disability.

The CHCPE waiver program, administered through the Department of Social Services (DSS), assists eligible elder adults, ages 65 years of age or older, who are at risk of nursing home placement, to continue to live in the community. Depending on the waiver participant's needs, the waiver can provide a variety of supports, including the Adult Family Living-Foster Care program. This program provides individuals with a foster home that provides room, board and support services. Under the waiver, family members, except for spouses and legally-liable relatives, including guardians, may be reimbursed as a host family for the Adult Family Living-Foster Care program.

As detailed in the proposed legislation, expanding the Adult Family Living-Foster Care program to include individuals with intellectual disability would require DSS to submit an amendment to the CHCPE waiver for approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In addition, expanding the services provided in the waiver, and subsequently expanding the population eligible to receive such services, would need a funding mechanism to support such changes. As an appropriation to fund such expansion has not been identified, the Department of Developmental Services is unable to support this proposal.

If this bill were to move forward, the department would ask that the term "intellectual disabilities" as it appears in lines 8, 9, and 15 be changed to "intellectual disability" to reflect the definition of the term in section 1-1g of the Connecticut General Statutes and the current definition of the condition in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5).

The department does have a similar program administered by DDS that provides a safe and integrated residential setting in a family environment for individuals with intellectual disability. Specifically,

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Community Companion Homes (CCH) are licensed residential homes with host families that are matched with an individual served by DDS who has a need for residential services. The CCH host family and the individual are matched based on lifestyle, personal preferences and the identified needs of the individual. A CCH host family provides the individual support for lifelong planning, works with others to create and promote meaningful opportunities for the individual to fully participate as a valued member of their community, helps the individual to maintain contact with people important in their lives, and supports the individual in working toward their personal goals. Like the Adult Family Living-Foster Care program, CCH host families receive a stipend for their room and board services. Family members, except for spouses and legally-liable relatives, including guardians, may apply to become a CCH host family. As of December 2018, 384 individuals were living in DDS Community Companion Homes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding [H.B. No. 7231](#) **AN ACT EXPANDING THE ADULT FAMILY LIVING-FOSTER CARE PROGRAM TO PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**. Please contact Krista Ostaszewski, DDS Director of Legislative Affairs at (860) 418-6066 with any questions.