



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 18, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 3051, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Criminal History Background Checks for Social Services Programs

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a statewide board with seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor, thirteen (13) of whom are persons with disabilities or family members. The Board's mission is to advocate and promote full integration, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society. This testimony represents a position voted upon by the Legislative Committee of the Board.

The Board supports Senate Bill 3051, SD2, HD1 which authorizes the Department of Human Services or its designee to conduct criminal history record checks for those providing services to vulnerable adults and children. Adults and children with disabilities who receive services from the State need to be protected. Conducting criminal history background checks is one way to ensure that individuals hired for programs that serve these populations have no criminal history or record of child abuse or neglect.

Families of adults or children with disabilities should not have concerns that State programs, to which their family members are entrusted, have responsible staff members who will provide safe and adequate programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA M. NIELSEN
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director