

Nicol Botelho

LATE
Testimony

Written for
Verbal

February 3, 2010

Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee of Human Services
House of Representatives
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature

Re: HB 2981 – RELATING TO SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Dear Honorable Chair Mizuno;

Let it be known that I, along with many parents and caregivers, strongly support this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to protect the cognitive development and the mental & general health of our young and aging disabled population, and to provide safety for them and the general public. Ordering the review of the current requirements of the State Department of Human Services and the laws pertaining to such, and making the necessary changes, shall ensure this happens.

Our own personal experience has been, that there is a breakdown in services during the time of transition from high school to Adult Day Living Programs. Our son has Autism and suffers from Epilepsy and other ailments. He is high-functioning and verbal but requires the service of a 1:1 Para-Professional to ensure his continued development, personal safety and the safety of others, however there is no program appropriate for him, nor one that will accept or provide a personal aide. In addition, they expect all young adults to be independent at the time of transition.

This is just a part of the problem. It is inconceivable to many, that the State can provide continued education resources for a general education student as well as the care for an elderly person, (at an approximate cost \$6000.00 per month for a care home), but yet cannot support the needs of this growing population of young adults. This matter is critical to future of our children and our accountability to them as a State.

Respectfully,
Nicol Botelho - Parent

Joined by: Stanley Botelho, Passion Jennison, Melissa Hogan and Ms. Ilae

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