

February 28, 2008

HB 5498 An Act Concerning A Catastrophic Illness In Children Relief Program.

Good morning Sen. Meyer, Rep. McMahon and members of the Select Committee on Children.

My name is Angela Spino. I am a Disability Policy Specialist for the CT Council on Development Disabilities. I am also a parent. I have a son with Autism. I live in Plainfield.

The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities encourages your support for HB 5498 An Act Concerning A Catastrophic Illness In Children Relief Program. We join with the Connecticut Commission on Children, Office of the Child Advocate and the Connecticut Family Support Council to urge your support to establish a safety net for families who have children who have special health care needs, who are chronically ill and who are technology dependent, and whose families have excessive medical expenses not covered by public or private insurance. These excessive medical expenses are not optional family expenses. They are mandatory. They are sometimes a matter of life supports. They are sometimes unexpected. They are always draining on already depleted family savings. They sometimes break up families.

There are successful catastrophic illness programs for children in Massachusetts and New Jersey. We hope you will afford children and families in Connecticut the same opportunity.

Thank you.