



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
March 16, 2009**

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Peter O'Meara, Commissioner of Developmental Services. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of **Raised Bill No. 1120, An Act Imposing A Moratorium on the Rebidding of Purchase of Service Contracts.**

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) believes that this bill is not in the best interests of DDS or the people we support and do not recommend passage. It is my understanding that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will be providing detailed background for the entire competitive procurement process, so I will limit our comments to the issues as they affect DDS. The Department is not presently planning any substantial competitive rebidding during the next two years based on the letter from Secretary Genuario of February 17, 2009 which I quote below:

“In light of the current fiscal environment and the resulting constraints on both state agencies and our private providers, I expect to waive the competitive procurement requirement for existing contracts (described below), provided I find that the contract price is consistent with the state’s interest in maximizing the use of its resources. This procedure will be in effect from February 16, 2009 until June 30, 2011.”

Although the legislation would not disrupt current activity, we are concerned that should we have the need to add service providers, or procure additional services, that the proposed legislation could to limit our ability to procure supports and services from new providers.

Additionally, the coming years may well cause state agencies to make changes in the services purchased or the amount we can pay. We would want to keep rebidding available as a potential tool in meeting the challenges.

We appreciate the intent of the bill and would be happy to talk further about this issue, but we believe that this type of legislation would not be a good solution. Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding SB 1120. Please contact Christine Pollio, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066 if you have any questions.