

To: Workgroup Members HB 2284

I'm pleased to be on the Workgroup HB 2284 Contact List but troubled by the emphasis on the "aging population" to the exclusion of the developmentally disabled population whose voice is crowded out and left to a faint whisper. The composition of the workgroup prompted my earlier "letter" in an attempt give voice to the underrepresented in your process and convey the critical importance of understanding the negative impact this bill will have on the developmentally disabled community.

The merging of the aging and the developmentally disabled community already has generated serious and daunting challenges. The medical /institutional model doesn't serve us well. It has compounded the inherent problem at the state level of addressing needs with a "one size all" set of policies. Effective policies driving services for our community must be designed for and be responsive to the realities of our community. Perhaps like no other community we are both complex and extremely diverse thus require policies and programs that foster choices, options, and flexibility in order to adequately address the daily needs and challenges we face. Our philosophy is that the abilities, > characteristics and specific environment of each individual must be > reasonably considered.

It is discouraging it is for us to see that the "tilt" at the table heavily leans to interest of the aging population and SEIU's agenda to increase membership, control training and control the unconscionable amount of training dollars that will be required. Enhancing the care provider profession is indeed a worthy goal but certainly can be achieved with fewer dollars and can be without creating "causalities" referenced in my earlier letter. I urge to "segment" parents and who we hire to avoid another one size fits all, dragnet policy that imposes more for use to endure by narrowing our choices and options in bringing help into homes for our developmentally disabled daughters and sons.

Thank you,

Ron Ralph

