

**Christine D'Anjou
Seven Hills RI
House Bill Number: 7591 Senate Bill Number:2553
Viewpoint: Support**

May 15, 2024

Please accept this written testimony on behalf of the children and families who so desperately need these services.

I have been working in the field as a special educator for six years and then in multiple roles with my current affiliate, Seven Hills Rhode Island, formerly The Homestead Group and The Arc of Northern RI for the past 32 years. I currently oversee compliance, quality assurance and quality improvement for all areas of the affiliate.

In addition, I have a 35-year-old daughter who is physically, intellectually, neurologically, and behaviorally challenged. She has spent time at Bradley Hospital and was only able to be successful at home, in her community and school settings with HBTS, PASS and Respite in place to compliment her other clinical and medical supports. Should she not have had these services and support, she would have been hospitalized or institutionalized which would have had a hefty price tag for us honest working-class taxpayers to have to supplement.

In short, I am begging you to pass Bill Number 7591 and 2553 to allow agencies such as Seven Hills to continue to provide these crucial services to children and families, which in the long run will be cost effective compared to the alternative.

Sincerely,

Christine D'Anjou

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