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Public Health Committee Public Hearing March 3, 2008

Raised S.B. 498: An Act Authorizing Bonds Of The State For A New Facility In Manchester For Persons With Developmental Disabilities.

Good Afternoon,

My name is Thomas McCann and I am a self-advocate.

I am here to tell you that MARC needs a new building and you should support raised S.B. #498.

I live on my own in a condo that I bought in Manchester CT. I live independently. I have no roommates except for Ginger my cat. I can live and work independently because I have support from MARC. Without MARC, I wouldn't have a job and be able to pay my bills, live in a condo, go to the movies or out to dinner. All the things that you, as legislators do to have a full and happy life. If I couldn't get help to do these things, my life would be down the drain.

MARC supports people in community jobs and makes sure we can live independently. If we did not receive these supports we would be lost.

MARC is asking for help from the legislature to fund a new building. They need more space to serve people. MARC supports people with disabilities in Manchester and surrounding towns.

I want to stress how important this new building is. I know lots of people in Manchester and around the region who need the supports provided by MARC. With the new building more people could be served and more types of services could be offered.

Supporting S.B. #498 makes sure that I and other people like me get the help I need to keep my job, my home and my ability to run my own life.

Thank you.

Respectively Submitted,
Thomas McCann