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Testimony
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Hello my name is Patricia Sabato, thank you for letting me speak today. The committee is asking if families are better off after being involved with DCF. I am here to answer that. My family was going through an unfortunate time. It began as a simple school referral, due to a school issue. We were then led into involvement with DCF and their failed programs that kept our family in crisis for years. We were sent to Family and Children's Aid of Danbury where Dr. Irvin Jennings prescribed Dexedrine. This was for my then seven year old son. The adverse side effects landed him in a psychiatric hospital. From here it was an out of state Residential Treatment facility. He witnessed things no child should have. This place was unsafe and he was returned home damaged. Drugs that followed Dexedrine were Wellbutrin, Prozac, Chlonadine, Thorazine, and Concerta. I am speaking today also for those that have been victims of this system. Those afraid to come forward in fear of bringing DCF back into their lives or not getting them out. Afraid of the threat of having their children taken away or having them kept in custody. Also because DCF controls the records created on a family. Families don't get the chance to dispute or disprove what is written about them no matter how distorted. They do not feel credible and remain quiet. For those who came forward today, I welcome you and your courage. If there is an open case the family is given a treatment plan. Psychological evaluation are done by DCF contracted Dr's. Counseling is mandated. Usually psychiatric drugs are prescribed. All treatment is ordered, not offered. There are no advocates, no effected legal representation or alternative methods. There are few if any community resources or educational programs not based on or around Behavioral Health. I went to a DCF forum facilitated by FAVOR in 2006 and learned that this is still happening. I have advocated for families and joined the DCF FAVOR citizens review panel to try to help change DCF. I have some thoughts and ideas. The things that helped our family DCF did not have a clue about. So my answer is "no" families are not better off after DCF. Thank you.