

Testimony
Senate Bill 2142 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 17, 2011

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am JoAnne Hoesel, Director of the Division Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, for the Department of Human Services. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2142.

The Department worked with a variety of stakeholders and other state agencies whose regulations would be affected by the passage of this bill in drafting its language. The group agreed that this language change is not intended to affect services, eligibility, or quality of care but rather, it is an effort to show respect to the persons served.

The change from mental retardation to intellectual disability is less offensive and is line with the current practice of providing supports tailored to individuals to enhance their functioning.

The Department was pleased to be part of the planning and supports this positive legislation. We believe the passage of the bill before you today is the right thing to do.

I will answer any questions you have.