

Dear Neighbors in Greenwich and Stamford,

I am writing to endorse Kimberly Fiorello for State Representative. She has a remarkable grasp of issues, particularly those dear to me as a parent. She is a busy mother of four yet strong, informed and ready for our State Legislature.

I serve on the Governor's Developmental Services Council(DS) and the Task Force on future needs of persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities(IDD) under Special Act 18-2. I am also a parent-advocate co-founder of the Legislature's Special IDD Caucus. I and other IDD families have taken the case to the Capitol for years.

I am a lifelong JFK Democrat who has seen that principled Republicans bring much to the table, especially the party's heart-felt concern about IDD citizens and policies pertaining to employment and residential needs. Republicans have initiated statutes vital to Connecticut's IDD families.

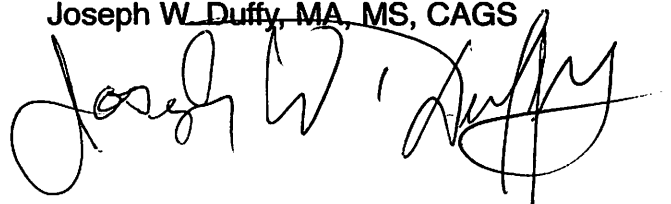
As I get to know Kimberly, I see depth in her commitment to get things done by sound judgement and fidelity to facts and basic decency. Her life experience is rich in mature perspective. Kimberly is gifted with a responsible enthusiasm to face our state's problems with honesty and courage.

Nationally, my own party is uncritically sponsoring the HR 873 Minimum Wage/ Competitive Employment Bill, a key section of which will devastate the employment prospects of many higher-need IDD employees like my daughter by repealing the 14C Certificate of the Fair Labor Standards Act(1938)! This Federally sanctioned Certificate now sustains over a thousand IDD workers in the Connecticut community with a fair wage based on certified abilities and skill sets. How dare anyone tell me that 14C is exploitation! I see my daughter thrive! Kimberly Fiorello is among the FEW among the many I've met while defending 14C who truly understand the job opportunities and values in this Federal program supervised by the U.S. Labor Department.

I was overjoyed that before we talked, Kimberly Fiorello already knew that the 14C movement has traction in our General Assembly. I am confident that Kimberly Fiorello with her vision as a parent and potential legislator will bring the very same professional preparedness to all her legislative tasks. She has met my IDD concerns with a gracious empathy, integrity and respect all of us citizens expect from those who want to hold the public trust.

Our hard times call for a steady legislative hand and cutting-edge intelligence to confront problems, especially deficits. Deficits terrify IDD families. Since 2012, I saw millions cut from IDD families as state deficits grew! Some legislators didn't even realize state policies damaging to our community! Kimberly Fiorello has convinced me she listens to learn the facts, fully prepared to ask "Why?" She will ask and act on everyone's behalf. I sincerely urge you to send Kimberly to Hartford.

Joseph W. Duffy, MA, MS, CAGS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph W. Duffy", written over the typed name above.