

APP Testimony regarding **H.B. 5005**, An Act Adjusting The State Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 2021.

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Representative Laviella and members of the Appropriations Committee,

I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the **Children's Center of Hamden** for over 30 years, and am all too familiar with the funding difficulties that nonprofit children's services agencies like this one face. The children we care for rely on the concern and support of our state government in order to have a chance to recover, survive and thrive.

Please appropriate \$461 million over five years for community nonprofits such as ours.

Please do not cut \$5.4 million from Board and Care for Children, both short-term and residential. The programs funded by DCF are crucial - demand and need for services keeps growing, sadly, and programs that help need to expand, not shrink.

Please oppose the cut of \$2 million from the Behavioral Support Program. I don't know about "natural attrition" - I do know about continuing need.

Thank you for your consideration,

Krista B. Hart
Woodbridge, CT
February 20, 2020