

## Appropriations Committee Testimony

### Public Hearing on:

### [H.B. 5005](#) An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2021

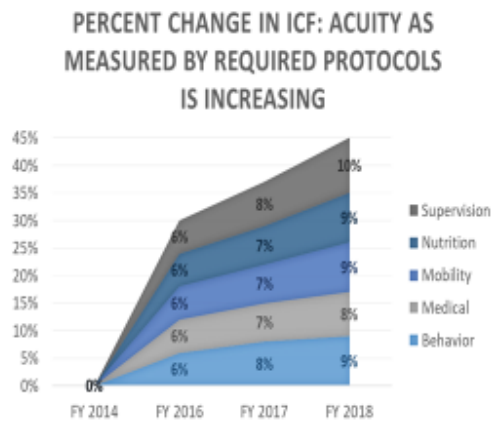
Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Representative Lavielle and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Jane Davis, and I am the President and CEO of Ability Beyond, a private, non-profit provider of community services for people with disabilities. We serve 3,000 people every year, and our funders include DSS, DDS and DMHAS. Our services span across most of Western Connecticut, and our community includes 1,000 employees, 320 community employers, and over 2,000 family members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 5005 An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2021.

Today I am speaking on behalf of the 117 people with severe disabilities we serve in the 20 community homes we operate. Our numbers speak for themselves. The acuity of the people we serve has risen dramatically in the last few years-both because people are aging, and because the state is now prioritizing care to those on the emergency waiting list and most in urgently in need of services. And, at the same time, except for pass-through changes (new funding directly tied to new costs), we have had decreases in our rates since 2008. These two phenomenon together have intensified to the point where we are operating at a loss severe enough to put the closure of this important program under consideration. (Please see below chart showing decreased funding and acuity).

Just yesterday, our organization met with team members from DSS and were told, essentially, there is no mechanism to increase our funding and that we need legislative support. We need your help to continue our programs for Connecticut's most fragile citizens.



Only received rate reductions since 2008 (net of pass-through changes)

Increase in expense of only 4% over 11 years (less than .36 % per year)

## HISTORICAL ICF-DD REVENUE AND EXPENSE



I am along with providers and families from around the state to respectfully **request that the legislature appropriate \$461 million over five years for community nonprofits**. Since 2007, community nonprofits have lost at least \$461 million in state funding that has not kept pace with inflation or adequately covered increased costs and demand for services over the last thirteen years.

Please:

1. Commit to increasing funding by the full \$461 million, or 28%, by Fiscal Year 2025;
2. Appropriate \$128 million (a state net of \$67 million after federal reimbursement) in new funding for community nonprofits in Fiscal Year 2021, a 7% increase;
3. Index increases to inflation, to ensure that state funding will keep pace with increased costs in the future.
4. Give private provider Intermediate Care Facilities, which are vital, community based services caring for Connecticut's most needy, adequate rates to stay open. This is a small DSS program which desperately needs your attention immediately.

Thank you.