

H.B. 5005

Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2021

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Tina Garrity and I am the current President of the Board of the Children's Center of Hamden.

I am asking you to please reject the Governor's proposal to cut \$5.4 million from Board and Care for Children-Short-term and Residential.

Nonprofit providers of children's services have been struggling to operate with inadequate funding for more than a decade, at a time when demand is on the rise. If we do not safeguard children's services from budget cuts, we will jeopardize the gains the State has made over the past three decades and risk destabilizing the system altogether, leaving some of our most vulnerable kids and families with nowhere to turn. These homes are a critical part of the service delivery system and I respectfully ask the Committee to restore this funding.

Please oppose the Governor's proposal to cut \$2 million from the Behavioral Support Program. The Governor's budget says that cut reflects "natural attrition." If that is the case, the funding should be reinvested to increase rates for those services.

Also, please do support the Governor's proposal in the DSS and DDS budgets to create an incentive payment model to help move people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities into less intensive and more appropriate levels of care. Please do not just use the savings it creates to balance the budget, instead taking the opportunity to reinvest that savings into increasing rates and/or moving people off the waiting list.

I appreciate your time and dedication on these matters.

Tina N Garrity