
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 Elena Ampeire, and I live in Storrs. I am a caregiver and friend of a person with I/DD.

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

I oppose the Governor's recommended \$1 million cut to Community Residential Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Any funds saved when an individual chooses to move from a higher cost setting to a lower cost setting, should be used to serve people who are on waiting lists for residential supports. I also oppose the Governor's recommended \$2 million cut to the Behavioral Services Program (BSP) which provides support to families and individuals age 8 to 21 with intellectual disability with a serious and persistent mental disorder that substantially interferes with their functioning in family or community activities.

I support the CT Community Nonprofits Alliance's 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. This has resulted in program closures, waiting lists and staffing shortages that impact on the lives of people with I/DD and the supports they rely on to live in the community.

In the past few years, the state has done nothing but cut services for people with I/DD, and it is cruel and short-sighted. I am very happy for my tax money to be spent wisely investing in the care and future of people with I/DD.

Thank you for your time.