

**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:

We are Barbara McKinnon and Mary Ann Rusczyk, employees of CW Resources and have been for 9 and 15 years respectively. CW helps people with disabilities to learn the skills necessary to work and live life to the fullest. And learn to live in ways that are acceptable by society.

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

Community nonprofits provide essential services in every city and town in Connecticut, serving people in need and employing tens of thousands. They are what make Connecticut a great place to live and work.

We work daily with consumers. They look forward to coming to CW to earn money and feel worthwhile and needed. They also need the socialization and enjoy being with their friends. They really enjoy the social occasions CW has for them and being remembered on their birthdays. It is felt that what they learn at CW and what they do at CW they cannot do without support. CW provides a supportive environment and many would not be able to function well at other locations. They have a feeling of security and acceptance.

We 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.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Barbara McKinnon and Mary Ann Rusczyk

