

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 Trudy Haury and I live in Meriden. I am the Director of Individualized Support Services at MARC Community Resources in Middletown.

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

And once again, Connecticut's non-profits are at the mercy of the state budget. Community nonprofits provides vital resources, programs and services to adults with a variety of intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) throughout Connecticut. Community providers gives people hope, purpose and the help they need. However, the unmet needs of those with I/DD remain high.

I oppose the Governor's recommended \$1 million cut to Community Residential Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities though we support and encourage people to move to more independent and cost-effective living options. Funds saved when one individual moves to a lower cost setting, should be reinvested in the private provider to provide serves people who are on waiting lists for residential supports, and or have higher medical or behavioral needs. .

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.

We need to address increasing needs in the community. The programs and services MARC and other community nonprofits provide to the residents of Connecticut are a vital part of our cities and towns, allowing families, seniors and individuals with complex needs to live productive lives in the community, and contributing to making Connecticut a great place to live and raise a family. It is for this reason I ask that you 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 for your time.