

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 Susan Lucek-Hughes, and I live in Tolland. I am mom to Annalee, who was born weighing 1 pound, 10 ozs and has cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities.

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.

My daughter Annalee needs around the clock supervisions and assistance with mobility and all activities of daily life, via wheelchairs, transfers, handicapped accessible vehicles and adaptive surroundings at home and school. She basically needs someone to get her out of bed in the morning and put her in at night, and assistance with most everything in between.

Furthermore, as children with special needs get older and turn into adults, they need MORE services and supports, not less, in the form of housing and independent living supports, job and day supports, PCAs, transportation, healthcare and equipment. Where will the services come from if the programs continue to be reduced?

Please, please, please do not reduce services and/or funding for people with physical and intellectual disabilities. These services are critical to their LIVES; their basic health and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Lucek-Hughes