

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:

Brenda Pajor
CW Resources Inc.
New Britain, CT

Please accept my written testimony on H.B. 5005 An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2021. Unfortunately I am unable to attend in person.

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.

I am here to 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.

I have the opportunity every day to see the benefits people with disabilities obtain from attendance at our dry food packaging facility in New Britain CT. This facility packages dry gravy and roast and ground coffee products.

This facility offers guidance and supportive benefits to our consumers, improving upon and teaching new skills, which include but are not limited to:

working independently and as a team
importance of meeting deadlines
basic housekeeping skills (i.e. keeping a clean work area)
maintaining basic personal hygiene
attention to detail
meeting customer expectations
following directions
and finally, and the most important, is the reward of a paycheck for working so hard

In closing, I am deeply concerned that funding to support these types of programs is failing to keep up with the costs of the programs.

I kindly ask your support to continue with the funding so desperately needed to keep programs like this one available to those who need it.

