

**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 Diane Hyland-Aubin and I live in Niantic. I am a relative of a 60 year old male with I/DD and a long-time advocate with The Arc.**

**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.**

**I feel that with your experience and contact with individuals with I/DD themselves, their families and service providers, you are aware of the devastating effects of lack of funding. Families and providers have continued to do their utmost to meet the most critical needs with burnout, turnover and constant fear for the people we love and support.**

**Thank you for your time.**

**Diane Hyland-Aubin  
President, The Arc CT  
Vice President, The Arc Eastern CT**