

Public Hearing on: [H.B. 5005](#) AA Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2021

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Representative Lavielle and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

We are writing to *oppose* the Governor's recommended \$1 million cut to *Community Residential Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*. We are parents and caregivers of our 26 year old daughter with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). While we understand the cost savings of moving individuals already in the system from a higher cost residence to a lower cost residence, any funds saved should be used to serve people with I/DD who are on the waiting list for residential supports. There are many affected with I/DD whose parents are approaching or over 70 years old or who are afflicted with significant diseases that are making it difficult to care for our children. We want to know that our children are safe before we die.

We 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 serious and persistent mental disorders that substantially interfere with their functioning in family or community activities*. These formative years require behavioral support and these youth should have such services readily available. There are numerous studies that have shown that the brain is not fully developed until age 25 or so\*.

We do *support* the *CT Community Nonprofits Alliance's request that the legislature appropriate \$461 million over five years for community nonprofits*. Community nonprofits have lost at least \$461 million in state funding over the last 13 years. These losses mean that state funding has not kept pace with inflation or adequately covered increased costs and demand for services. As a result, waiting lists and staffing shortages have resulted. It is becoming harder and harder to get and retain quality staff in community nonprofit programs. As such, the lives of people with I/DD and the supports they rely on to live in the community are negatively impacted along with the lives of parents and guardians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 5005.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Mariani and Ron Murallo  
16 Wilson Avenue, Quaker Hill, CT

\* 2020, University of Rochester Medical Center, [Understanding the Teen Brain](#)  
2018, Newport Academy, [The Facts about Teen Brain Development](#)  
2013, Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment, V9, Dove Press, [Maturation of the Adolescent Brain](#)