

**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 Chris Blake. I live in Wallingford, Ct. I am a person with IDD. I work in an advocacy capacity with other advocates and I am on several boards. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I oppose the governor's recommended cuts to services for people with IDD. I believe the recommended budget cuts will have a negative impact to the individuals who benefit from these services. These recommended cuts will not improve a better mental health or improve a better functioning environment with family or the community. From cutting these particular services who need them. It will affect people in the community from moving on to their next step of life and funding cuts will affect people from getting jobs and creating positive social relationships with family and community. Budget cuts are not good and I would like to say it would be beneficial if we could have accessible transportation that meets the needs of individuals with disabilities. Transportation is a main issue that no one tries to solve which can help people to become independent and contribute more.