

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 Wayne Camarro and I live in Rocky Hill. I am a parent & caregiver, of a person with I/DD.

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 with I/DD 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 23 year old son Harrison is an extremely gentle loving and kind person who just happens to have Intellectual and developmental disabilities. He doesn't walk and is unable to speak, yet he is able to express his happiness with a smile that lights up a room. My wife and I have cared for his every need since birth, including extensive medical needs as he has a lifelong seizure disorder and a fragile respiratory system, leading to multiple repeated bouts of pneumonia.

For far too long, people in the ID&D community have faced disproportionate cuts to vital state services. It is time that their voices are heard. We ask for your support in helping to reverse these cuts and keep services funded for individuals with ID&D.

Thank you for your time.

Wayne Camarro