

TO: SENATORS OSTEN, REPRESENTATIVE WALKER,
AND MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FROM: SCOTT FREITAG
RE: DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES (DMHAS) BUDGET
H.B. NO. 5005 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING
JUNE 30, 2021

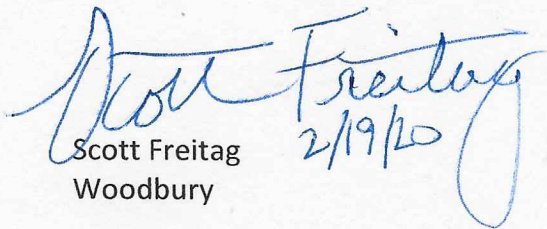
Out of respect for your time, please understand that my wife, Jan, and I literally don't know "where" out now 31 year old son, Max, would be without the extraordinary people and programs of DMHAS in Waterbury Connecticut. Since his release into their care on November 25th of 2013, right on through to this moment, our son has received phenomenal care by way of each and every one of his Team Members and by all of those who have touched Max's, and our, lives!

And while, like so many, I never thought that I would have need for these types of services for my own son, I now know from first hand, very personal experience, just how critically important they are. As such, I am asking you to consider increasing the funding for DMHAS Behavioral Health Services, for related housing supports, and for services for high-need individuals in the DMHAS' budget.

I support the following items in the Governor's budget proposal;

- * the additional \$280,880 for private nonprofit providers to reflect the impact of minimum wage increases on their costs
- * the Housing Support/Services maintained at \$23 million for Fiscal Year 2021
- * the \$3 million dollars in new funding to fund community placements for individuals at Connecticut Valley Hospital who are ready for discharge. This funding would support twenty placements during Fiscal Year 2021. The funding would cover both rental subsidies and funding for wraparound services and supports
- * the Young Adults Services that are maintained at levels of the enacted budget, \$78 million in Fiscal Year 2021
- * the maintaining of the Managed Service System, (Federal) Grants for Substance Abuse Services, and (Federal) Grants for Mental Health Services line items; that all help fund NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Connecticut's work

Thank you for your time and consideration,


Scott Freitag
Woodbury
2/19/20

SF/me