

**H.B. 5005**

Written statement of Francisco Reyes

Concerning DHMAS funding

Appropriations committee

Friday 02/21/2020

On January 1, 2020 I found myself detoxing from fentanyl on the streets of New Britain. I found myself in a situation of life and death. I didn't want to die in that condition in an alley way, flipping and flopping like a fish out of water. I got up and dragged myself to New Britain hospital. I was admitted instantly and medicated due to my condition. The hospital personnel called for a representative from CCAR. He helped me transition to detox. While I was being treated he stayed with me until I was able to do the intake for detox. He supported me and stayed by my side until I was stable. A few hours later I was able to have a clear understanding that he came from CCAR and was a Recovery Coach. That support gave me the strength that I needed to make the decision to go into a detox program. My original plan was suicide by freezing to death. Because of the commitment that CCAR has I am alive today.

It is very vital that CCAR continues to be funded. They are involved in the most important mission of saving people's lives. I am writing this from the Willimantic Recovery Community Center of CCAR. I would like to truly say thank you to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for funding these programs. Please don't stop. Thank you very much for your understanding and concern.