

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee**  
**February 21, 2020**  
**H.B. No. 5005 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE**  
**BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

Good evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Jenn Brownlee, and I am a registered voter in Norwich.

I am here to testify regarding H.B. No. 5005 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.

I am here to support and preserve the proposed DMHAS funding for substance abuse and mental health services to nonprofit organizations. I have co-occurring diagnosis; I have realized later in life that I had an addiction issue on top of mental health issues.

Here at Reliance Health I have received a lot of necessary support. Reliance Health's Teamworks, Penobscot Place and TLC2 programs are key to my recovery. Without programs like these I would be dead, homeless or institutionalized.

Penobscot Place's diverse approach to managing various addictions is essential. It has taught me a lot of necessary skills needed to manage my addiction. Teamworks has taught me a lot of mental health coping skills, as well as provided emotional support as I mentally and emotionally get better. TLC2 has helped me by providing me a time limited transitional housing as a woman with an addiction issue. It has also provided me much emotional support as I learn to manage my addiction behaviors.

I cannot thank you enough for not proposing additional cuts to these much-needed human services and social service safety nets. Cuts to organizations like Reliance Health would have such long lasting effects on so many people, including me. If it were not TLC2 I would be homeless.

Thank you for letting me share my story.