



MARC, INC. OF MANCHESTER
151 SHELDON ROAD
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT
06042

860-646-5718
FAX 860-645-9910

KEVIN ZINGLER
PRESIDENT & CEO

Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee

Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Representative Lavielle and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Kevin Zingler, President & CEO of MARC, Inc. of Manchester, a nonprofit organization that provides Day, Residential, Respite, Personal Supports, Supported Employment and Transportation Services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am here today to testify on H.B. No. 5005 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.

As a partner with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for the past 68 years, I am here to respectfully request that the legislature appropriate additional funds to the DDS budget which will enable the Department to revise rates which have not kept pace with inflation or adequately covered increased costs for services over the past 13 years. In addition, the provider community has suffered budget cuts.

In 2018, the Legislature clearly articulated via the passage of Special Act No. 18-5, that a wage differential between minimum wage and rates earned by Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) is not only warranted and earned, but essential to ensure quality care is provided. Our DSPs go through extensive training including CPR, First Aid, Medication Certification, and Physical and Psychological Management training plus countless hours of orientation and training including Medical Awareness, Dysphagia, and other topics, in order to provide the best care possible to our people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

MARC, Inc. of Manchester is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization that supports people with developmental disabilities from Ashford, Bloomfield, Columbia, Coventry, East Hartford, Ellington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Mansfield Depot, New Britain, Newington, South Glastonbury, South Windsor, Stafford Springs, Vernon/Rockville, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor just an option

I ask you tonight, as the clock is ticking and the wage differential is set to be reduced by another dollar this September and erode away completely by 2023 to develop a plan – one which starts today with adequate and incremental funding in the DDS budget to enable a rate revision.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectively Submitted,

Kevin Zingler

MARC, Inc. of Manchester

151 Sheldon Road

Manchester, CT 06042

(860) 646-5718 / kzingler@marcct.org

MARC, Inc. of Manchester is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization that supports people with developmental disabilities from Ashford, Bloomfield, Columbia, Coventry, East Hartford, Ellington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Mansfield Depot, New Britain, Newington, South Glastonbury, South Windsor, Stafford Springs, Vernon/Rockville, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor just an option

MEMBER UNIT OF ARC/CT AND ARC/US
A UNITED WAY AGENCY SERVING MANCHESTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA