

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
HB 6439 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30th,
2023
Department of Housing
Friday, February 19th, 2021
David Gedraitis

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is David Gedraitis and I am a registered voter and live in Waterbury CT. I am a mental health advocate and member of KTP.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today on HB 6439, in regards to important investments needed to support efforts to end homelessness in our state.

I support helping people who are homeless get the housing they need. It is a vital support necessary to maintain recovery from addiction and mental health conditions. Thanks to funding, I am living in my own apartment and am an active member of my community.

Please support \$85.5 million in funding for the DOH Housing and Homelessness Line Item. Please do NOT cut the \$3 million that the Governor is asking for. I also ask you to support funding for homeless youth. Kids do not need to be couch surfing or living out of their parents' car, but need a stable home to thrive in. Please support \$2.65M in 2022 and 2.94M in 2023.

Rental assistance is another Department of Housing investment that is important to people's recovery. Please support the funding they need to continue to help people especially during the COVID crisis when people are losing their rentals because they can't pay due to no work. I believe that we can afford it this year!

I appreciate all you are doing to help us!

David Gedraitis