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Monique Anderson, DMHAS
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SEIU 1199NE
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee. My name is Monique Anderson and I am a Mental Health Assistant in Addictions Services at CVH. I've been in state service for 18 years. I currently work on the women's rehab unit, and I'm proud of our program on that unit. We operate the only all-female inpatient rehab unit in the state. Unfortunately, lack of funding for updated training and programming, and more staff has taken its toll on our patients and the staff in this program.

Our unit typically has a long waiting list because we're the only program like this in the state. Women with histories of sexual trauma are able to get treatment for their addiction and find support in their journey.

Before the pandemic, we operated a 110 bed unit in Merritt hall: 30 beds were for women only, 60 for men only, and we had 20 detox beds. Currently with the pandemic, we have not been able to maintain the women's only rehab, so now it is a co-ed environment, which changes some people's willingness to go into rehab. We have also reduced bed capacity across the whole division from 110 to 32 beds.

We absolutely need to restore our bed capacity, but we need to go beyond that. Addictions Services needs \$6.3 million dollars to fully staff the division, and to add an additional unit, or 30 more beds, so we can provide proper care to the residents of CT who are struggling with increased addiction levels since this pandemic started.