

from: Katy Bartos P.O. Box 522, New Hartford Connecticut 06057
860 379 1772 ktb4jesus@gmail.com

February 26, 2021

to: State of Connecticut Legislature
Appropriations Committee
Health Subcommittee

RE: Public Hearing on HB 6439 Tues March 2

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and Distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, Fellow Citizens of our beautiful state,

For the sake of some of our state's most vulnerable citizens, I am writing this testimony for Tues March 2 to encourage you to please reinvest the proposed savings (from closings, transitions, and reductions) in services for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities I/DD and commit to \$461 million in funding to correct the past 12 years of flat funding ... rather than balancing the budget now.

Since 1985, I have served as legal guardian for two individuals with severe developmental disabilities. It has been a privilege to have witnessed all the improvements in care, understanding, and staff techniques to help such individuals reach their potential. Especially recently during the covid-19 pandemic, the incredible dedication of the staff is a credit to our state, keeping themselves and their families safe in order to be safe to devotedly serve the disadvantaged individuals they work for.

As legal guardian, I will visit unannounced at the home or day program. I cannot think of another workplace where staff are always cheerfully engaged in their work, enjoying the individuals they work with, while providing quality essential daily life services, goal-oriented, with specific measurable criteria.

Over the years, my two friends and their fellow residents have made incredible progress.

Not all states have this kind of record. The greatest indication of the courage our country has had during this pandemic will be how we have treated our most vulnerable fellow citizens. This has been on display in a negative way in one of our neighboring states with regard to Covid and nursing homes, for the whole world to witness.

In financial matters, our 'bottom line' choices seem to come down to 'the basics'. In a democracy, the basics are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, Life being first.

Over the last thirteen years funding has not kept pace with inflation or adequately covered increased costs and demand for services. Please also Index increases to inflation, to ensure that state funding will keep pace with increased costs in the future.

It is also necessary to hold nonprofits financially harmless from the impact of COVID-19. They are front line protection for vulnerable people with disabilities.

I sincerely hope your committee will protect the funding for them.

May God bless you and may God bless America.

Kathryn Bartos
Barkhamsted

Have a HOPE-filled 2021!
God Reigns! His Son shines! The Holy Spirit comforts!

katy

May God abundantly pour out His blessings in 2021
and deeply bless you!

Light shines  in the darkness!
Peace on earth! Hope rises! Joy sings!

All glory to the 

King of our hearts! 