

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
March 2, 2021
DMHAS BUDGET HEARING
H.B. No. 6439, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR
By Samantha Burton

Hello Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Samantha Burton, and I am a registered voter in the city of Bridgeport.

I am testifying in support of maintaining the budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, **H.B. No. 6439, An Act Concerning the State Budget for The Biennium Ending June 30, 2023 And Making Appropriations Therefore.**

I have been a member at Bridge House in Bridgeport, since 2005. If it were not for me attending Bridge House, I would end up dead somewhere. Bridge House has been very instrumental in my life. Before I came to Bridge House, I was so lost. I felt incomplete. I had felt so alone—like nobody understood me or could empathize with what I was going through. Bridge House opened my eyes to a whole new world of possibilities. They never looked at my disability; they always looked at my ability. They helped me find my voice; they helped me find the strength I needed to believe in myself—that I could succeed in life. I have achieved so much being a member at Bridge House. I have a new apartment; I got my driver's license; and I am a published author! None of those achievements could I have accomplished without Bridge House staff. I was a caterpillar when I first arrived at Bridge House; now I have blossomed into a beautiful, bright butterfly! Bridge House changed my life for the better. That is why I firmly believe in the importance of keeping it funded.

I am respectfully requesting that funding for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is increased after years of reductions.

Thank you very much for taking the time to allow me to give my testimony.