



Advocacy and Action  
for Connecticut's  
Mental Health

**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 THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING  
APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.  
Christopher D. Bush**

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

My name is Christopher Bush and I am a registered voter in East Hartford.

I am here to testify regarding H.B. No. 6439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

I am a 54 year old male who has struggled with homelessness brought on by alcoholism and depression, which was caused by a severe neck injury from years as a construction worker. I have been homeless off and on for the past 10 years but am living in a studio apartment now, through a program designed to house the homeless.

I have also become involved with Intercommunity where I receive case management, primary care, medication and mental health services. I am involved with Common Ground Social Club and Learning Center in an attempt to help deal with depression and isolation during the pandemic. They have sent me numerous care packages and have helped me access zoom social groups by giving me phone cards because I have a state phone with limited minutes. This program has been a life saver in terms of my depression.

The numerous programs that have been there for me these past few years have been a huge help to me mentally and have helped me to maintain hope. Please increase the funding of DMHAS to provide these programs within our Non-Profits that are crucial to the welfare of people like me with mental health and addiction problems.

Thank you for listening to my testimony today.