

### **\$461 Million Funding Increase for Community Nonprofits**

03/02/2021 – Testimony by Claudio Denoya in Support of SARAH Inc., Westbrook, CT

Distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee and of the Legislature of the CT Government, I am Claudio Denoya, a resident of Old Lyme, CT, a PhD Research Advisor, a member of the Board of Directors of SARAH Inc. Most importantly, I speak on behalf of my daughter Mariana, who is 43 years old and has multiple mental and physical disabilities.

As you know, Community nonprofits provide essential services in every city and town in Connecticut, serving people in need. Community nonprofits serve thousands and thousands of people every year in the State. Among their services, they provide important support to people with developmental disabilities. My daughter lives with us and depends on the services of SARAH Inc. in Westbrook to carry a daily dignified and happy life through social, educational, and community activities.

It is my strong belief that Community nonprofits as SARAH Inc. represent our best values as human beings and the pillars of our beloved country. At the level of society, they contribute essential support to all those in need bringing an exceptional example of social justice, equality and moral values which in term enhance the image and recognition of our State as one of the best in the Nation.

During the last decade, community nonprofits have lost at least \$461 million in state funding that has not kept pace with inflation.

I respectfully request the legislature should appropriate funds to nonprofit services by \$128 million in new funding in fiscal year 2022, commit to increasing funding by \$461 million by FY 2026, and apply an index to inflation , to keep pace with inflation and increased costs in the future.

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