

**NOW CT (National Organization for Woman CT Chapter) Testimony opposing Governor Lamonts proposal to CUT mental health and addiction services funding by 16.2 million. Written by Maggie Goodwin member of CT NOW board.**

**NOW** is **opposed** to Governor Lamont's budget proposal that **cuts \$16.2 million** in next year's general funds for the **Department of Mental Health** and Administration Services.

Working men, woman and their children are struggling to rise from **the loss, isolation, and trauma of COVID-19**, as well as struggling with the economic hardship related to this pandemic. There also continues to be a growing **opioid epidemic** across CT.

**NOW** maintains that the women of CT see an obvious **need to expand and increase funding for mental health and addiction services including crisis services, suicide prevention and trauma treatment. CT should not cut funding** for mental health and addiction services in the budget for the coming years.

**NOW CT opposes** the governors **proposed cut in mental health and addiction services** in the next two years as we struggle to deal with this ongoing crisis in CT.

**National Organization for Women CT Chapter** urges the appropriations committee to **reject the governor's proposal to cut funding for mental health and addiction and instead** support the calls of many to **increase this funding.**

Please **trust your understating of and empathy for** those who are struggling with the stress of this pandemic and at the very least **do not decrease funding for mental health/addiction services in CT.**