

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
Keith Iodice

Greetings Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee

I am here to testify regarding, **H.B. No. 6439, An Act Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2023 And Making Appropriations Therefore.**

My name is Keith Iodice and I'm a registered voter in the city of Bridgeport. I am testifying today because the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Budget is important to me as it affects the quality of my life.

I have a Traumatic Brian Injury. In 1985 I suffered a brain aneurysm. For many years I was isolated with the exception of the aides that helped me with my daily living skills. I felt very sad and alone.

But then, about five years ago my therapist recommended I go to Bridge House. I gave it a try and now Bridge House has become a family to me. I have friends and I no longer feel so alone and empty. At Bridge House I like to work in the Culinary Arts Unit. It makes me feel good to create meals for members and staff that they enjoy. Sometimes, I will also work in the Membership Services Unit answering phones and making copies.

At Bridge House I found people who are like me and who share similar interests. I now have a place to go where I am accepted, valued, and my work is important. Thank you for listening to the reasons why the DMHAS Budget is important to me and why we need to increase it to keep these important services.