

Appropriations Committee

Public Hearing on:

[H.B. 6439](#)

An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023, And Making Appropriations Therefor.

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Martin Legault. I am the parent of a client of Horizons Inc. in Windham. Horizons has been supporting our family for more than 30 years through their many services including: Weekends in the Country, Summer Camp, Day Program Services and Residential Support Services. Our daughter has very complex needs, that without the expert services provided by Horizons, we would be at a total loss to meet. We are extremely grateful for the State's financial support to Horizons over all these years that has allowed them to continue providing these critical services to our daughter.

Prior to my retirement in 2015, I also served as the President and CEO of Corporation for Independent Living, a statewide non-profit agency developing specialized housing for people with disabilities operated by other non-profit agencies such as Horizons. In that role, I became acutely aware of the critical role of that non-profit agencies play in meeting the needs of families and individuals throughout the state.

It is both as the parent of a person with a disability and as a former non-profit service provider that I am here today to **request that the legislature appropriate \$461 million over five years for community nonprofits** as a part of H.B. 6439 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023, And Making Appropriations Therefor.

These funds will help cover the losses in state funding that community nonprofits have experienced over the last thirteen years by not keeping pace with inflation or adequately covering increased costs and demand for services. In addition, these funds should be indexed to keep pace with inflation and used to hold nonprofits financially harmless from the impact of COVID-19.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.