



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.  
Hannah O'Regan.**

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

My name is **Hannah Oregan** and I am a registered voter in **Wethersfield, CT.**

I am here to testify regarding **H.B. 6439- The DMHAS budget hearing.**

I receive H.U.D. housing, E.B.T., community support services, and behavioral health through Intercommunity, a non-profit that works with DHMAS. I am a member of the Common Ground Social Club, where I have found a home, a community of friends, and peer support. I just moved here from New York and I was in the middle of creating a new social network when COVID-19 hit. I live alone and only go out to go grocery shopping once a week or to get the mail.

Without the Common Ground telehealth meetings, I don't know where I'd be mentally. They have really helped me and without that I don't know what I'd do. This past year has been very overwhelming. They have been a welcome distraction from a global pandemic, civil unrest, and insurrection. Thank you for listening to my testimony today.

Please increase the funding for DHMAS. People need these support services. Too many of us are stuck on waiting lists for housing. With the current pandemic, the need for behavioral mental health aid and accompanying services are critical. Community nonprofits are on the front lines of the Coronavirus pandemic and we need your help. That's why I'm

asking for your support to increase funding for nonprofit services by \$461 million over five years.

Many community nonprofits never closed their doors. These organizations provided food, emergency housing, behavioral health supports and other essential services. However, with many other in-person services temporarily suspended and capacity for those that are open reduced by social distancing requirements, community nonprofits experienced a significant drop in revenue.

Please commit to increasing funding for community nonprofits by \$461 million over five years. Thank you.