



United Services, Inc.

Creating healthy communities

**Public Hearing on:
H.B. 6439 An Act Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023,
And Making Appropriations Therefor.
Health Subcommittee
Tuesday, March 2, 10:00 am**

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

My name is Linda Parsons and I am a member of the Board of Directors of United Services, Inc.

United Services is the Local Mental Health Authority for 21 towns in Northeastern Connecticut. We are a nonprofit organization providing more than 30 programs to our community, including Outpatient Mental Health, Substance Abuse Treatment, Family Programs, and Crisis Services.

I am writing regarding H.B. 6439 An Act Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023, And Making Appropriations Therefor.

I respectfully request that the legislature appropriate \$461 million over five years for community nonprofits.

United Services is an essential healthcare provider and we have remained open throughout the pandemic. We have continued to work with clients to support them in the community.

We are continuing to see the impacts of COVID-19 across all of our programs. Some of our programs are currently operating at a more than 200 percent increase in services compared to the same month in 2019.

Our programs have been chronically underfunded. Our staff, who provide critical services to our community, are alarmingly underpaid. We also have fewer services available to support our clients.

The need for mental health and substance abuse treatment services is expected to grow significantly as we emerge from the pandemic. Now is the time to invest in substantial improvements and enhancements to the behavioral health system, not to time to flat-fund the DMHAS budget.

Please support the \$6.3 million increase in Discharge & Diversion Services. Community nonprofits, such as United Services, help people avoid most costly care (EDs, jails, or shelters) and get them on a path toward recovery. We need these resources to respond to the needs in our community.

Respectfully,

Linda A. Parsons



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**Appropriations Committee
Human Services Subcommittee Public Hearing
Wednesday, March 3, 10:00 am**

**H.B. 6439 An Act Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023,
And Making Appropriations Therefor.**

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

My name is Linda Parson and I am a member of the Board of Directors of United Services, Inc.

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Our programs have been chronically underfunded. Our staff, who provide critical services to our community, are alarmingly underpaid. We also have fewer services available to support our clients.

We are concerned that the Governor's budget appears to use the FMAP bump received by the federal government to enhance Medicaid rates into the general fund, rather than increasing rates for Medicaid providers. We need rate increases to cover increased cost.

We need these resources to respond to the needs in our community.

Respectfully,

Linda A Parson