

**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**

Greetings Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee  
My name is Tinia Rodriquez and I am a registered voter in the city of Bridgeport.

The Greater Cause – To happiness, love, patience & acceptance

I am a CPR certified nurse assistant who is proud to serve in my wonderful free country. I just wanted to thank you for this awesome opportunity to speak before you!

This pandemic has affected us emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually, physiologically, & socially! It brought about a great depression, sadness, loss, isolation, and emptiness for many! We are scared of the future, and the lack of coping efficiently! More people are without homes, with the lack of food and other essentials. We need one another to draw closer together to God, and to self. To help hand in hand!

As a community, we have drawn closer together. With the support of our fellow man, and our support networks we are fighting a great cause to make life a better place! Surviving! Together we are strong, responsible, and capable men and women who will do anything to help serve and support our beautiful country! This pandemic has shattered lives, and at the same time has made us draw closer together!

As a nurse assistant, I feel honored and pleased that I am making my community a better place! By helping those in need I am accountable, responsible, and a wiser young woman. It's because of the people around me that I help! They teach me wisdom, intelligence, and common sense on how to care for myself, family and friends! I've learned unity, a deeper love, and hope, and care for others. I have become humble and hardworking! It is my pleasure to serve where the need is great!

Please help us reunite the country so our community can become a better, stronger, united society, and we can be back together again! Please consider increasing funding this year so we can continue to offer our wonderful programs. Again, thank you for your time and patience in hearing our personal concerns. We are all in this together!