



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.  
Kimberly Walton**

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

My name is Kimberly Walton, I am a resident of West Hartford and a registered voter in Stamford, CT.

I am here to testify regarding H.B. No. 6439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

I am a 53-year-old female and I have struggled with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder for most of my life. I have been a member of, and received services from Inter-Community since October of 2020 such as therapy and case management. I have joined Common Ground Social Club and Learning Center for reasons of feeling loneliness and to gain companionship. Both staff and fellow members welcomed me with open arms and have made me feel safe and secure. All staff and members are very compassionate and non-judgmental which is comforting and makes it easy to talk openly with them.

Joining the social-club during the COVID-19 pandemic positively impacted my self-healing process. Common Ground Social Club and Learning Center has done a great job with providing telehealth services via Zoom with many fun activities which has helped me to not feel alone and isolated during this difficult time.

If it wasn't for Common Ground via Inter Community, Case Management and other services provided, I would have had difficulty getting through the

COVID-19 pandemic. It is vital for all members that we receive the services we do to help sooth and support in this time of need. I ask that you please continue to provide funding and increase funding for DMHAS Non-Profits like Inter-Community for all programs providing services to the mental health community.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today.