



United Services, Inc.

Creating healthy communities

3/8/21

Re; HB 6439.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to HB 6439. I am hoping to explain why it is essential to increase funding to community nonprofits during this budget. I am a manager at United Services and our agency is in crisis. We cannot recruit or retain staff due to our extremely low, below market, salaries. Our staff, agency morale, and clients and their families are suffering as a result. We have staff that work full time with us and qualify for Medicaid insurance and SNAP benefits with how low our pay is. The majority of our staff work 2nd and 3rd jobs. We have staff that help clients gain employment, and those client often make the same or more hourly than that staff person with a bachelors degree. Our staff deserved increased pay for many years, but especially since Covid. We have all worked in office, no remote work, throughout Covid to ensure we are there to serve our clients. Please consider greatly increasing the funding to nonprofit community mental health providers in this bill.

Sincerely,

Shelby Champagne, LCSW
Adult Outpatient Clinical Manager
United Services Inc

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