



CONNECTICUT  
LEGAL  
RIGHTS  
PROJECT, INC.

TESTIMONY OF KATHLEEN FLAHERTY, ESQ.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CT LEGAL RIGHTS PROJECT, INC.  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING  
MARCH 8, 2021

**In support of HB 6555**, AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT  
AND APPROVAL OF COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS.

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

Good afternoon. My name is Kathy Flaherty and I am the Executive Director of Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP), a statewide non-profit agency that provides legal services to low income adults with serious mental health conditions. CLRP was established in 1990 pursuant to a Consent Order that mandated that the state provide funding for CLRP to protect the civil rights of DMHAS clients who are hospitalized, as well as those clients who are living in the community.

To the extent that the federal government does not place specific and explicit restrictions on coronavirus relief funds, the legislature must have input on how Connecticut spends the millions of dollars that the federal government is sending to the state. These decisions must not stay within the sole discretion of the executive branch.