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Human Services Committee  
Jonathan Harris, Co-Chairman  
Peter Villano, Co-Chairman

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Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I am a self-employed cabinetmaker and instrument maker from Niantic, a member of the steering committee of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Southeast Connecticut and a board member of the New London Homeless Hospitality Center. I want to briefly make two points.

One as a member of the 10-Year plan Steering Committee I think it's important to point out that after a nine-month deliberative process the plan included a provision for year-round regional hospitality center with a day center. This was done in full recognition that more funds for supportive housing efforts are an integral part of the solution of the homelessness problem. But since this is a 10-year plan, not a ten-week or a ten-day plan, it is also important not to act as if this is an either-or proposition and put all the efforts in one basket. Consequently the plan members included expanded efforts to help people on the streets and in the woods with emergency housing and a day-time drop in center where social service personnel can engage the homeless, deal with their immediate health needs and arrange for further case management and counseling as needed.

Also, I have been honored to be able to help out raising funds for the start-up of the Homeless Hospitality Center. Since we are here contemplating the expenditure of state funds it is important that this committee understand the broad commitment of the local and regional individuals, corporations and foundations to this effort. So I am including with my written statement here information documenting that support, which includes Pfizer Corp., Liberty Bank, Dime Bank, Citizen's Bank, and many others, as well as existing support from DSS for four months of shelter operations. The tragedy surrounding these efforts has prompted an outpouring of support that has been tremendous. Many, many individuals and foundations and corporations have been stepping up to support us to the extent of their capability. So, you can be assured that state funding targeting this efforts will be substantially leveraged by local and regional financial support.

Thank you

List of corporate, foundation, government contributors:

Dime Bank, Liberty Bank, Palmer Fund, Bodenwein Foundation, Waterford Group, Citizen's Bank, Pfizer Corp., Walmart, Federal Emergency Food and Shelter, State of Connecticut Department of Social Services.