



ADVOCACY UNLIMITED, INC. 300 Russell Road Wethersfield, CT 06109

(860) 667-0460 • (800) 573-6929 (in Connecticut only) • FACSIMILE: (860) 667-2240

**Testimony
House Bill 1338
Public Hearing
Human Services Committee
Rom 1-C
3/13/07**

Good afternoon Senator Harris, Representative Villano and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Melissa Marshall. I am the Executive Director of Advocacy Unlimited (AU). AU is a consumer controlled organization that empowers individuals with psychiatric disabilities through education in self, systems and legislative advocacy.

I am here today to support **House Bill 1338, AAC A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR PRIVATE PROVIDERS OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**. The state relies on non-profits to provide a wide array of services to Connecticut's residents in need. However, it has failed to adequately fund them. The lack of a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts to a budget cut to vital services.

This is not addressed by the proposed low wage pool as it only addresses programs funded by DMR, DMHAS and DCF, omitting scores of programs. In addition, the low wage pool fails to address infrastructure needs and operating expenses.

We urge you to favorably consider **House Bill 1338**. Thank you for your attention.