

Evangeline Sargent Testimony Regarding Supportive Housing

Good afternoon distinguished Chairs and members of the Committee.

My name is Evangeline Sargent and I am from Oakdale. I'm here before you to ask you to restore the funding for the 150 units of Supportive Housing the Governor committed to two years ago. These are shovel ready projects that will provide desperately needed housing for veterans, families with children, and people with disabilities who are homeless!

For creation of affordable and supportive housing, there needs to be sources capital financing. Otherwise no new affordable or supportive housing can be built. Supportive housing is needed for many people. Some of the people that need supportive housing are Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services clients.

With 150 units of supportive housing, we can transition people that are in the hospital that don't need to be there out and save money. The cost to the State is \$1,187.00 a day or \$433,255.00 a year per person for inpatient psychiatric unit setting. In the meantime the cost to the state for the same person would be \$54.00 a day or \$19,710.00 for the same person in a Supportive housing setting.

The state needs these units. Especially those in the mental health arena. Please give us these units of Supportive housing back. It does more harm to everyone to take them away than to restore them. Remember, investing in the state's mental health system is an investment, not an expense. Thank you.