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Testimony for State of CT Budget
LOB Public Hearings
Appropriations Committee
Supportive Housing
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Good afternoon Appropriations Committee Members. My name is Ginny Gerena I am an Advocacy Unlimited Graduate. I advocate for individuals with disabilities, Youth and Seniors. I am also a disabled Veteran. Today I want to petition on the proposal to eliminate funding for 150 units of Supportive Housing. Governor Rell had committed to this bill 2 years ago. This project is a shovel ready one that would provide housing for veterans, families with children and disabled individuals who are homeless.

Please do not cut this bill out for many repercussions would result from this decision. It would cost the State more extra funding if they do not address the homeless issue.

From my own personal perspective. I have been a homeless Veteran for a few years for lack of appropriate services. I lost my house in 2007 and it took 2 years for the Veterans Administration to help me. I am presently in a Veteran sponsored program, where I hope I will soon be placed in a more permanent housing situation, that I can afford. The present Shelter situation is not working, you usually can only stay 3-4 months, then you have to move on. A better transitional system should be implemented. That's why the funding for Supportive Housing would be a good investment. I am going to find out how the model for Housing First has worked in other states, so that I can propose it to be implemented in Connecticut.

I appreciate your attentiveness and I thank you for your careful consideration to this bill.

Virginia Gerena