

Human Services Committee Public Hearing – February 17, 2009

Proposed Bill 346

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATION TO COMMUNITY PROVIDERS***

Good morning Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Barry Simon and I am the Executive Director of Gilead Community Services and Board Chair of Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA). Gilead Community Services is a mental health provider funded by DMHAS and DCF that serves almost 600 individuals throughout Middlesex County. CCPA represents organizations which provide services and supports for children and adults with disabilities and special needs including people with addictions, mental illness, developmental and physical disabilities.

The community provider system is a cost effective means of providing vital services that are an integral part of the core mission of government. I am here today on behalf of my clients and hundreds of thousands of individuals served by the community provider system to ask that you look to strengthening the community provider system as a way of addressing aspects of the growing fiscal crisis. We thank Senator McKinney for raising Proposed Bill 346, An Act Concerning the Transfer of Social Service Program Administration to Community Providers and for recognizing the value and potential of the efficient and effective system of community-based human service providers.

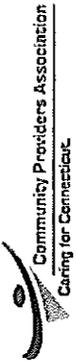
Community providers deliver services to over 500,000 of the state's most needy residents. Local agencies in your districts continue to witness under funding, yet everyday families and individuals across our state turn to their local community provider, at increasing rates, for the support they need to lead more productive, healthy and fulfilling lives. In these difficult economic times, demand for our supports and services have grown significantly, yet funding has not kept pace. The individuals we are serving are those who are getting hurt most in this economic downturn. If the state doesn't look to better ways to fund the system, then our clients

CCPA

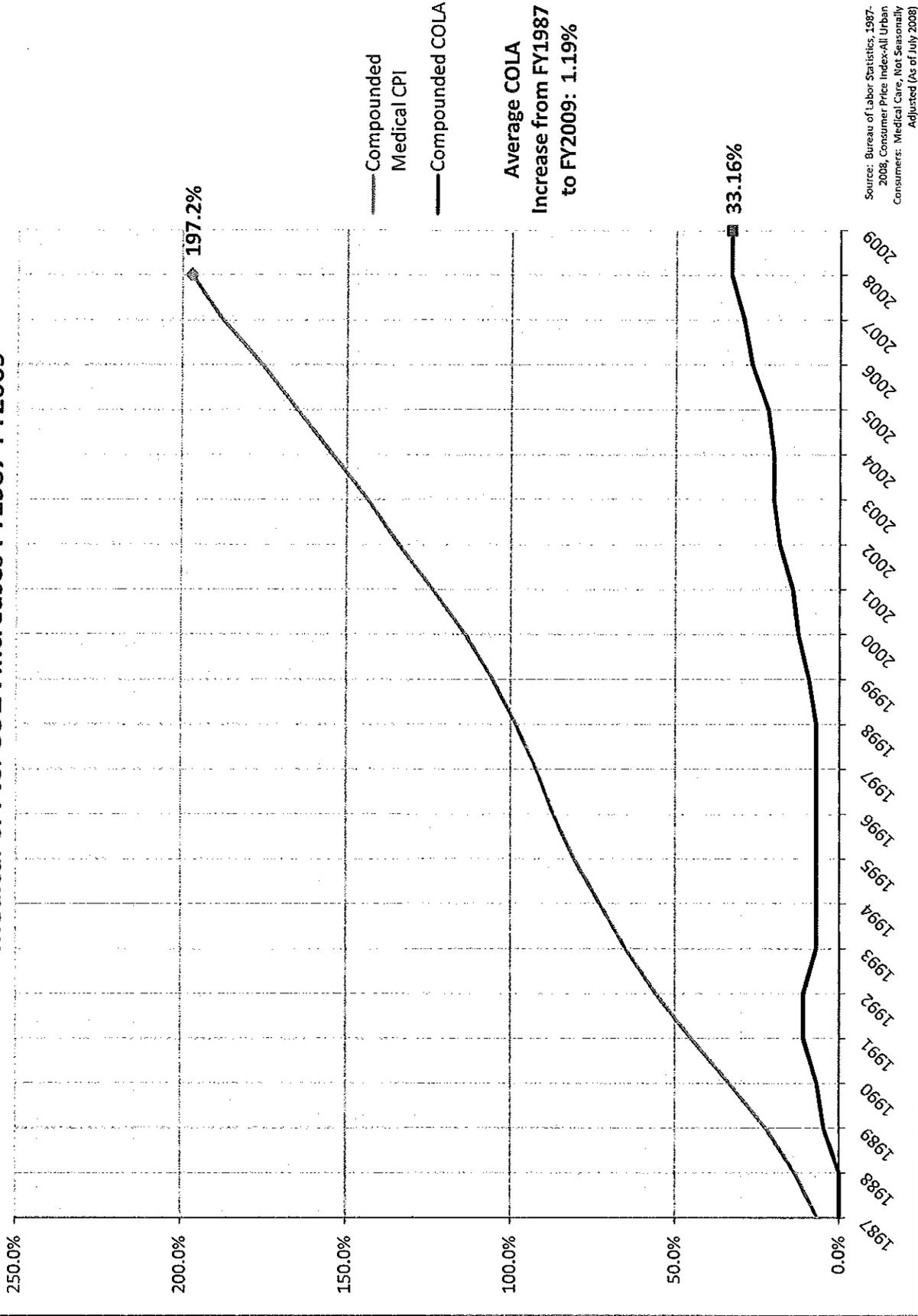
citizens. However, our funding needs to keep pace with inflation and the growing costs of services if we are meant to even continue services at current levels.

Community Providers are part of the solution for the future of the service delivery system. We ask that you look to preserving the investment made in quality, cost effective, community care. The 500,000 Connecticut residents that use our services need you to help fix this systemic problem before it becomes their healthcare crisis.

I thank you for your time and would be happy to answer any questions.



Medical CPI vs. COLA Increases FY1987-FY2009

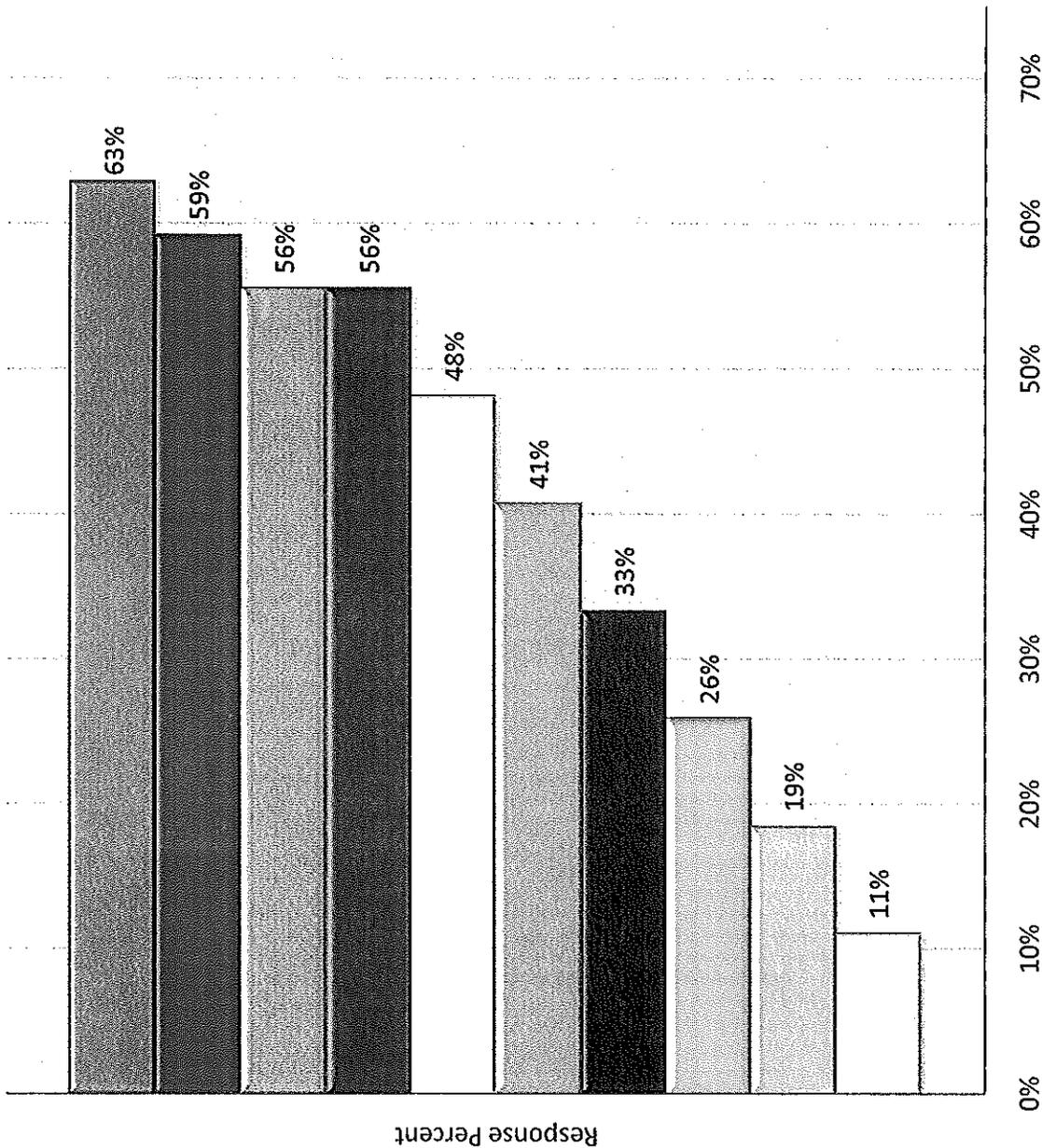


CCPA's Preliminary Analysis of Steps Taken by Private Providers to Deal with 0% COLA



Community Providers Association
Caring for Connecticut

- Keeping Positions Vacant/Delay Hiring
- Delaying Building Repairs/Upgrades
- Delaying Technological and Medical Equipment Repair/Upgrades
- Increasing Employee Contributions for Insurance
- Reducing Staff Development/Training
- Eliminating Positions
- Reducing Direct Services
- Reducing Employee Benefits
- Eliminating Programs
- Limiting Geographic Service Areas



Source: July 2008 CCPA Member Survey "Impact of 0% COLA and Increased Costs" Respondents