

TESTIMONY TO THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
March 11, 2010

**Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan and the Impact of the Governor's Rescissions on Human Services Programs**

Co-Chairperson Harp, Co-Chairperson Geragosian, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My Name is Paul M. Rosin and I am the Executive Director of Community Residences Inc. a not-for-profit multi-service provider of day, residential, and family support to children and adults with special needs. I am also a member of the Connecticut Association for Non-Profits Legislative Committee.

I am here today to speak against the Governors proposed deficit mitigation plan that will cut a total of almost \$14 million from the DSS budget including \$4.3 million out of the budget for Nursing Homes and Intermediate Care facilities-Mental Retardation (ICF-MR) and \$300,000 out of the DDS Day Program budget line. These cuts, in addition to no cost of living adjustment (COLA) in three years, will decrease direct consumer care hours and put at risk Federal Medicaid reimbursables that are desperately needed at this time.

The Connecticut nonprofit community is united in our goal that the State's budget for this year and in the future, will not be balanced on the back of poor children, the elderly, people with disabilities, people with mental illness, people in poor health with no means of support, or others that can not, without assistance, obtain the basic necessities of life.

Given this, the Connecticut nonprofit community recommends:

- Increase revenues by passing a progressive income tax and fixing costly corporate tax loopholes that will ensure that Connecticut corporations and individuals of means pay their fair share.
- Demand that the Executive Branch maximize Federal reimbursement for existing programs and that State Agencies submit timely, complete, and compelling applications for new sources of revenue.
- When it is necessary to make cuts in Human Services Programs, partner with the providers, make efforts to minimize the direct impact on the consumer, and analyze all options that will make services cost efficient, community based and of high quality.

- Pass S. B. No. 316 that establishes a commission that will examine the adequacy of funding provided to not-for-profit providers of health and human services under purchase of service agreements. The intent of this Bill, that was passed by the legislature in 2008 and then vetoed by the Governor, is to make a commitment to the not-for-profit agencies that actions will be taken to ensure their long term financial stability.
- We need Health Care Reform now! When 25% annual increases in premiums are the norm, and nonprofits go three, four, five, years with no COLA; we will not wonder when there are significant new demands placed on DSS and Husky.

The Governor's March 1, 2010 budget mitigation plan is not in the best interest of programs that provide human services, their customers, and in the end the citizens of the State of Connecticut. It does not fix the structural issues with the current State budget and it will only make things worse in the coming years. This committee and members of the Legislature that are in this for the long term owe it to the Citizens of this State to take a serious look at the budget and make a down payment to fixing the problem and not kicking it to next year when it may be too late to fix it without hurting real people that have real needs.

Paul M. Rosin  
Executive Director  
Community Residences Inc.  
March 11, 2010