



February 25, 2011

To: Appropriations Committee
From: Sandie Lavoy slavoy@cwresources.org
Vice President of Community Services
CW Resources
200 Myrtle Street
New Britain, CT 06053

Re: Testimony H.B. No. 6380 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2013 - Regarding the DSS Budget Hearing 3/4/11

Please accept this written testimony in opposition to the proposed 10% cut in funding for the DSS Employment Opportunities Program. CW Resources is a not for profit organization involved in creating and finding employment opportunities for people with disabilities. I am writing today on behalf of all the individuals supported through the DSS/BRS/Employment Opportunities Program. These dollars, by design, are the established safety net for individuals with significant disabilities who need but are not eligible for long term supports through other funding agencies. What may be deemed as not essential to the DSS core mission is clearly essential to support those who have continued to fall through the cracks of the system.

As finding and keeping work becomes more and more competitive for people without disabilities, taking from individuals with significant disabilities who need this support to continue working strips away at the heart of the BRS mission of creating opportunities which enable individuals with significant disabilities to work competitively and live independently. The Employment Opportunities Program dollars are used to **keep** people with significant disabilities working and reducing these dollars means that their support will be decreased and in some individual cases may be eliminated. To these individuals, losing a job just doesn't put them onto the unemployment list, it crushes the human spirit, puts them back on the DSS/BRS job placement list, and standing in line to use more state dollars and resources just to survive. Please keep these dollars intact.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandie Lavoy