



March 7, 2011

To: Finance Committee

From: Terry Edelstein, President/CEO

Re: S.B. No. 1008 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER PURPOSES.

We appreciate Governor Malloy's commitment not to shred the "safety net" and to support community-based services. There are many very positive aspects to this budget. **We would like to speak in support of the Governor's proposals relating to bonding for community-based services.**

The Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant challenges including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities. Community providers deliver quality health and human services to 500,000 of Connecticut's residents each year. We are the safety net.



The Governor's budget recommends bonding authorizations for community providers funded by DMHAS, DDS, DSS and DCF. It provides for expansion of supportive housing to enable people with disabilities and other challenges to live in the community. We very much appreciate this commitment to community-based supports and services.

This is the first time in several years that bonding has been recommended to support vital community services. Community providers operate residential, clinical, vocational and other

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supportive services in communities across Connecticut. The years without bonding authorizations have undermined these community-based services. These nonprofit organizations have not had cost of living adjustments for over three years and for over twenty years, increases have not matched the rate of inflation. With minimal reserves, they do not have a ready source of funds to meet their very basic infrastructure needs such as roof and gutter repair or replacement, furnace replacement, sidewalk renovation to meet safety standards, painting to preserve property, ADA compliance and the many types of maintenance needs that any business requires. They can't increase their rates. They can't add a surcharge to their pricing. These organizations rely heavily on state support as safety net providers.

This past winter bears out the need for bonding allocations. Just like homeowners and businesses throughout the state, community providers needed to clear their roofs, remediate ice jams, plow their driveways and handle emergency situations such as leaking ceilings and flooded basements. This bonding will do much to remedy the health and safety needs as providers grapple with the repairs needed once the winter is done.

We ask that you give consideration to modifying the DCF bond package to include funding for “outpatient psychiatric clinics for children.” While the DCF package includes funding for “grants-in-aid for construction, alterations, repairs and improvements to residential facilities, group homes, shelters and permanent family residences,” the companion account that funds the community-based child guidance clinics was not included.

Thank you for your consideration in approving a bond package that supports community-based services and supports for individuals with disabilities and significant challenges and preserves the safety net.