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Testimony in Support of Governor's Bill No. 842

Good morning Senator Fonfara and Representative Widlitz and Senator Frantz and Representative William and members of the Finance Committee. My name is Anne Ruwet and I was privileged to serve in the legislature and was a member of the Finance Committee in years past, so I would first like to thank you for your service.

I am here today as the CEO of CCARC, Inc., an agency in New Britain, Connecticut that aspires to "make dreams happen" for the over 200 people who are developmentally disabled that depend on our services. I am providing testimony to support the Governor's Bill No. 842, specifically the \$40 million to establish a new state bond pool specifically designated for nonprofit community-based providers. This pool will provide opportunities for nonprofit providers to invest in projects that will achieve new efficiencies to lower administrative costs and improve the delivery of services. This funding would help CCARC on a few critical projects that have been delayed due to the lack of available funds. The installation of a generator for our 22,000 square ft. facility on Slater Road is one example that could assist our many clients and families with emergency evacuation during storms when power outages

"We make dreams happen."

occur. Many of our vulnerable clients with disabilities would have shelter during these emergency events. There are many other potential uses for this funding that could help to provide financial relief and efficiencies inclusive of relief of debt payment and refinancing; upgrades of information technology, etc. CCARC has been a provider of services to people with disabilities and their families since 1952. We appreciate that the Governor continues to recognize that agencies such as CCARC are the state's "safety net" and added this new funding pool to his proposed budget. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.