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March 4, 2013

FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
Office of Governor Dannel P. Malloy
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

My name is Stuart Greenbaum, and I am the Executive Director of The Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County headquartered in Norwalk, CT. I am submitting my testimony in support of **S.B. No. 842 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County provides Greater Norwalk's children, youth and families with critical outpatient psychiatric services, prevention and consultation services. I am in support of Governor Malloy's budget/legislative proposal to establish a \$40 million bonding fund for nonprofit community providers over the biennium and here's why:

- The Center occupies two buildings at 100 East Avenue in Norwalk with its main front building over 132 years old.
- The governor's bonding grants could potentially fund physical plant improvements which we could never afford without state bonding grants such as improvements to the Center's health and safety and physical plant infrastructure such as insulated siding and energy efficient window replacements which would greatly reduce energy consumption and costs with such savings diverted back into the delivery of services.
- Also among the potential uses of bonding funds that the Center could apply for are start up funds to implement and upgrade required Electronic Medical Records and other Health Information Technology systems, start up development funding to improve our ability to secure private funding to create new and needed programs and expand and improve existing services, and the replacement of our aging vehicle fleet with new and handicapped accessible vans which we use daily to safely transport children and caregivers to and from our after school Extended Day Treatment Program.

The Center is an efficient agency spending 86 cents of every dollar on programs and services to the community which makes investing and raising money to fund the aforementioned items a real challenge in this financial environment.

We have in part been incrementally successful in raising some of the funding needed to achieve these organizational initiatives, so Gov. Malloy's budget proposal for bonding to nonprofit community providers represents a real opportunity for a public/private partnership which could complete these much needed improvements to our Child Guidance Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stuart Greenbaum, MA, MSW
Executive Director