

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for holding this hearing today for Proposed Bill Number 648.

I am in support of Bill Number 648 to provide funding for case management services at Victory Gardens, a supportive project for homeless Veterans and families at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Newington Campus.

Victory Gardens will provide homeless Veterans a new start in new permanent housing apartments and townhouses with support services by Chrysalis Center, Inc. Chrysalis Center, Inc. has provided supportive case management to homeless individuals for 18 years with great success.

Your support of Bill Number 648 will ensure the vital support services dollars are in place for the Veterans at Victory Gardens.

I was homeless for about 6 months living in an abandoned building with no knowledge regarding support services. A couple took me off the streets, and they assisted me with getting connected to services. With the help of Capitol Region Mental Health Center, I was diagnosed and able to receive good behavioral health treatment. Eventually, I was connected to Chrysalis Center. I was able to get help with housing, case management and food. Because of all of these supports, I was able to stabilize, obtain housing and live independently in the community. I want to thank the Government and State of Connecticut for the funding that has been approved as I believe I would still be homeless today! Chrysalis Center has been there for me. I really support any chrysalis endeavor that would support this program. Veterans already fought the good fight, so let's fight for them!

Thank you and please support Bill Number 648

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Gage". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Deborah Gage