

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.A, 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.

Hello my name is Nadine Garabedian, I had left San Diego, CA in 2003 because my boyfriend of seven years had finally had it with my drug use. He had gotten sober in 1994 and stayed sober the entire time we were together. I had been using heroin, crack and prescription opiates (abusing them) the whole time. One day I came home from my doctor's appointment for my prescription (opiates) that I was abusing and all of his things were gone from the apartment. I fell in a panic attack and from 2002-2003; I went from shelter to shelter. I finally took a bus home to New Britain CT, where my family had been staying. No one wanted anything to do with me because of my drug use. I stayed in a shelter until I got in the institute of living a women's half-way house which is a year-long program (an excellent one) and from there I got on "Project Heart" a step-up for me getting into Soromundi Commons for my new apartment. I've had my own apartment this year will be 8 years living here. I pay my rent every month (on time). I never want to be in that situation again (homeless). I feel blessed for having this apartment and the services provided.

Thank you and please support Bill Number 648

Signed:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nadine Garabedian".