

H.B. No. 6824: An Act Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending  
June Thirtieth 2017,  
And Making Appropriations Therefor And Other Provisions Related To Revenue.

Submitted By: Anne Ruwet, CEO of CCARC, Inc.

March 6, 2015

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Anne Ruwet, CEO of CCARC, Inc. CCARC, Inc. has been a provider of services to people with disabilities and their families since 1952. We provide Residential and Individual Support Services to over 200 people in the Greater New Britain community. We are also members of Connecticut Association of Nonprofits (CT Nonprofits.) and CT Community Providers Association.

I would like to share my concerns with H.B. 6824, An Act Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2017, And Making Appropriations Therefore And Other Provisions Related To Revenue. We strongly oppose the proposed cuts to the DDS budget. The persistent underfunding of Community Residential Services and Employment/Day Services is resulting in a fragile private provider community. The state needs a strong system of care in the community as recognized by many studies as well as the statute to create the Governor's Non Profit Cabinet of which I have been appointed for the past three years. The Governor's Cabinet on Nonprofit Health and Human Services was established in September of 2011 to analyze existing *public-private partnerships* with respect to the state's health and human services delivery systems and to make recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of those systems in regard to client outcomes, cost-effectiveness, accountability and *sustainability*. The Cabinet has made numerous recommendations to the Governor for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the service delivery system, as well as strengthening and increasing the sustainability nonprofit organizations. This report includes specific recommendations in the areas of: • Enhancing Financial Viability • Supporting the Workforce • Bonding Opportunities • Contracting Opportunities. In addition, the Cabinet made recommendations for future areas of focus in 2015. I applaud the Cabinet and the Governor for accepting these recommendations and his continued support of the Cabinet, although it is time to invest in the community providers and put the money in the budget so that we can continue to provide the critical services to the people with disabilities and their families who depend on us. We have already proven to be cost effective and efficient with the state's tax dollars but to what extreme. I urge you to reinvest in the community providers we deserve it but more importantly the people with support deserve it even more.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or for additional information.

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