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Comments: Written Testimony for the Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Health and Hospitals Donna LaPaglia, PsyD Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine and Director of the Substance Abuse Treatment Unit of the Connecticut Mental Health

I am a New Haven resident living on McKinley Avenue in the Westville section of New Haven. I direct a satellite clinic of the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) and I am writing to express my utter disappointment with the Governor's proposed cuts to the CMCH clinical and research programs. The proposed cuts would be devastating to the clinical and research operation and ultimately to the New Haven residents who suffer from mental illness and substance use disorders. It should be stated that Connecticut Mental Health researchers provide innovative treatments to patients free of charge and regardless of their capacity to pay. FACTS: They have generated new treatments for addiction and depression and have been at the cutting edge of testing new treatments for schizophrenia, PTSD, anxiety disorders, and other illnesses. Further, the Connecticut Mental Health Center has trained innovators and leaders in Connecticut and around the world.

Pulling money from CMHC, a leader in healthcare innovations is senseless. This cut would cause the loss of 2.5 psychiatrists, who currently treat 500 patients. Pulling clinical resources from CMHC only hurts the entire community. In addition, these cuts could cause the loss of nearly 100 researchers, clinical and research staff, and trainees. FACTS: For each dollar that the Governor invests in research at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, \$7 in additional funds is brought into Connecticut through federal grants and contracts. Further, the funds provided to the Connecticut Mental Health Center research laboratories are, essentially, paid back to the state government each year through fees called "indirect costs" on federal grants received by researchers. Connecticut Mental Health research is generating jobs for the people of Connecticut. For example, Yale faculty at the Connecticut Mental Health Center helped bring the Pfizer Clinical Research Facility to New Haven. They also created companies based on research advances, such as Neurogen in Branford and Biohaven Medical Sciences in New Haven.

I am asking that you please work to overturn these senseless and damaging cuts.

Sincerely,

Donna LaPaglia, PsyD

Director of the Substance Abuse Treatment Unit, Connecticut Mental Health Center