

RRRR
Stamford

Good Afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is RRRR and I am sending my testimony on the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget. I am OPPOSED to the proposed cuts to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and any further cuts that might interfere with any of the services they provide.

I have members of my family who suffer from Mental Illness. Seeing from their experiences, the help they have gotten from Mental Health Services has played an important role in helping them get better. Before receiving help, seeing someone you care about not being themselves is difficult. You know that something is definitely not right, but you do not know where to get guidance. The Dubois Center in Stamford has helped members of my family. Changes in the budget would affect centers like Dubois in providing services to help people get better and hopefully get back to normal. Also, I work with those with Behavioral Health issues and I see the sense of community and humanity places like Dubois offers to their clients and it is irreplaceable. As much as you may think you know the struggles of those dealing with Behavioral Health issues and addiction, you cannot know entirely what they have to go through to feel right, let alone feel accepted in their communities. We do not experience their problems. Not giving the proper attention to an issue does not make it go away, it makes it worse. If anything the Government should spend more time and more money providing awareness about surrounding Mental Health and addiction. More awareness will help family's identify services available to them to help their loved ones get the help they need to improve. More awareness can prevent problems that the people with Mental Illness face like poverty, homelessness and unemployment.

I urge you to restore these harmful cuts to ensure crucial services are available to the residents of Connecticut.

Thank you for your attention to these important services and supports.

Sincerely,
RRRR

This person's name is being withheld due to confidentiality. This person is receiving services at F.S.Dubois Center in Stamford, Connecticut.