

51 Wilkins Street  
Hamden, Connecticut 06517

March 6, 2015

Appropriations Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly

To Whom It May Concern:

Upon hearing of the proposed budget cuts to the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) in New Haven, Connecticut, I felt compelled to write to express my utmost support of CMHC and strong opposition to the proposed cuts. I am a psychiatry resident and neuroscience researcher in the adult psychiatry residency program at Yale University, and am on the verge of completing my third year of the four-year training program. I moved from Chicago to Connecticut in 2012 with my wife to train at Yale, and we purchased a home in Hamden last summer. In short, I have loved my experience at Yale and in Connecticut, and my wife and I feel similarly that if given the chance, we would be thrilled to remain in Connecticut after graduating from the program and build a life here together. The success of CMHC is critically intertwined with my desire to remain in the State of Connecticut. The proposed budget cuts will eliminate multiple clinical psychiatry positions as well as an overwhelming number of research positions. As both a clinical psychiatrist and neuroscientist, I can attest that this loss will be devastating. CMHC provides a home for cutting-edge research in all areas of neurosciences, and more importantly, links experts in mental health with people in our community who need it most. Major budget cuts at CMHC will also reduce the likelihood that people like myself will have the option to remain in Connecticut to practice medicine and perform research, as we will need to look outside Connecticut to find employment options, despite our desire to remain.

The Connecticut Mental Health Center is an absolute staple to the New Haven community and serves as a rock for many people with nowhere else to turn. It is a national gem for training researchers and producing cutting edge research. CMHC, with its numerous offerings, attracts people to Connecticut at a time when many residents are leaving. I urge you in the strongest way possible to maintain the funding of CMHC.

Respectfully,

Alan S. Lewis, MD, PhD  
Resident physician in psychiatry, Yale University