

*Testimony Submitted to the Appropriations Committee:*

H.B. No. 5044: An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

Submitted By: Carol Guardo, Bord member, Covenant to Care for Children

February 11, 2016

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Dr. Carol Guardo, I have chaired and now serve on the Board of Directors for Covenant to Care for Children. CCC serves abused, neglected and impoverished children across the State of Connecticut. This past fiscal year, we served over 22,000 children with food, clothing, beds and other basic essentials.

I would like to share my concerns with House Bill 5044: An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017. In particular, I wanted to express my sincere concerns to the funding reductions in the Covenant to Care, Adopt-a-Social Worker program, i.e., we deliver our services through social workers (DCF and non-DCF social workers). This funding reduction would threaten critical services to children and their families across the State.

We have already experienced two recissions and are working hard to adjust to them. Further reduction means turning our backs on the needs of dozens of children because we just cannot stretch our dollars any further.

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

Sincerely,

Carol Guardo (cjginct@comcast.net)