

## **Testimony Submitted to the Appropriations Committee:**

### H.B. No. 5044: An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2017

Good evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and honorable members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Chris McNaboe , and I am the CEO at Horizons -- a private nonprofit agency located in South Windham. Our agency has been in operation for 37 years and provides individualized supports and services for people with special needs where they live, learn, work, and play. Horizons is among the 600 + agencies of the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance.

I speak before you to express concerns with H.B. No. 5044. There is truly no easy fix for this current state budget issue. We must do the really difficult work of looking at the systemic problems, the unsustainable elements when making mid-term budget adjustments and new budgets.

The cuts proposed to make the budget balance will fall on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens and their families..... AGAIN. The very people who have nowhere else to turn, who cannot decide to go elsewhere for supports and services, who cannot choose to make do with less. **They already have less.** Each round of previous rescissions and cuts have already cut so deeply into the "Safety Net" for our folks with developmental disabilities that for most families is not a net but more like scooping water with your hands and having it all slip through.

The Private sector- Community Nonprofits

Support 85% of all people with Developmental Disabilities in CT living in the community.  
Support 91% of all people with Developmental Disabilities in CT in jobs and Day programs.  
Staff of Non-Profit agencies make up 12% (200,000) of the workforce in CT.

This legislature has supported CT's citizens with developmental disabilities through its previous actions. Please continue to support children and families in this mid-term adjustment and in future budgets.

THANK YOU