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H.B. No. 5044 AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

February 11, 2016

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Loretta Jay and I live in Fairfield, Connecticut. I am writing to you to express my very serious concerns for the Governor's proposed midterm budget adjustments that will affect community and social services, bringing additional hardship to our citizens who need support the most.

Our state's budget crisis leaves us with some difficult decisions to make, but **we cannot solve these problems on the backs of our most vulnerable; The Department of Children and Families and the Department of Social Services serve these at-risk populations.**

I have worked with and for social service agencies in Connecticut for over 25 years, including at DCF. I've seen first-hand how cutting services that help our most needy has immediate negative impact: the loss of support to our families increases personal stressors and lowers mental health functioning¹, which in turn leads to increases in abuse and neglect², lower school attendance³, poorer school performance⁴. Other compounding results are lower job performance⁵ or job attainment, poorer health and increased hospitalizations⁶, homelessness, crime and incarceration⁷ and more. Included in these organizations' overall services are those that address ethnic and racial disparities, mental health services for children and the many important local community programs that our residents rely on and are too essential to risk losing.

Of course we already know the value of our return on investment (ROI) that we as taxpayers get for these services⁸ – that is why these programs are in existence in Connecticut and throughout the country. Recognizing this, and in consideration of the sample of additional resources cited below, I urge you to protect these vital services and the people they serve from short-sighted cuts that will end up costing our state more – both in quality of life and fiscally.

Thank you for your service, and for your attention to my comments and these crucial services and supports! I would be happy to further discuss any aspects of this with you.

Sincerely,

Loretta Jay, MA
President

lorettajay@parasolservices.com

¹ Cobb, Sidney. Social Support as a Moderator of Life Stress. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 1976, 38:5, p300-314

² Child Maltreatment Risk-Protection Factors, Center for Disease Control,

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/riskprotectivefactors.html> Accessed 2/11/16

³ Romano, Elisa et al. Childhood Maltreatment and Educational Outcomes. *Trauma Violence Abuse* October 2015vol. 16 no. 4 418-437

⁴ ibid

⁵ Work, Stress and Health & Socioeconomic Status, American Psychological Association.

<http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/factsheet-wsh.aspx>, Accessed 2/11/16

⁶ Cobb, Sidney. Social Support as a Moderator of Life Stress. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 1976, 38:5, p300-314

⁷ Currie, J and Tekin, E. Understanding the Cycle: Childhood Maltreatment and Future Crime. *J. Human Resources* Spring 2012 vol. 47 no. 2 509-549

⁸ Sherman, A, Trisi, D and Parrott, S. July 30, 2013. Various supports for low-income reduce poverty and have long-term positive effects on families and children. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

<http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/7-30-13pov.pdf>