

Dear Chair Bye and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Aubrey Marino and I am a current MSW student at UConn School of Social Work. I write this letter to advocate for state funding for Human Services. It is *essential* that human services organizations and agencies receive funding from the state in order to function and to provide the services that individuals and families of Connecticut deserve.

If human service agencies are experiencing a lack of funding, it is likely these agencies are lacking in the services they are providing. Lack of funding can result in over-worked employees, limited resources and can limit agencies in the amount of people they serve. For example, employees should not have 50 or more clients each; each client should receive the same amount of resources as needed and agencies should not have to turn individuals away who are seeking help. State funding could provide more employees, more resources and open more doors for those in need.

There are thousands of people who donate and volunteer to human service agencies throughout Connecticut. These are the ways in which these people feel they are helping and can make a difference. As a social worker, I feel that advocating is a way in which I can make a difference. I, along with my fellow classmates and social workers, ask that you put yourselves in our shoes and the shoes of those in need.

Thank you.

Aubrey Marino