



BRISTOL
Adult Resource Center

Advocating personal growth and community inclusion for all we serve.

Bristol Adult Resource Center, Inc.

Serving Persons with Disabilities

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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: Mary F. Etter, Associate Executive Director
Bristol Adult Resource Center

February 18, 2016

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Mary F. Etter, and I am the Associate Executive Director at Bristol Adult Resource Center. We provide day and residential programs for adults with developmental disabilities, and we are among the 550+ member agencies of the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (CT Nonprofit Alliance).

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 Department of Developmental Services. This funding reduction would threaten critical services to individuals and families in our service area.

Bristol Adult Resource Center has been serving individuals with disabilities for nearly 60 years. We, and other nonprofit agencies like ours, provide quality, personalized programs for these individuals. We deliver these services in a cost effective manner, but we cannot bear repeated cuts to our funding. Staff at our agencies have not received a cost of living adjustment in three years and this lack of financial support is taking its toll on our personnel lines, particularly due to turnover costs and increasing healthcare related expenses.

The budget before you would convert some residential living arrangements from State run to privately run. We support this shift for two reasons – it makes economic sense, and the private sector with its community bases is better poised to provide personalized services to these individuals. However, adequate funding is required for this shift in services to be successful.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or for additional information. I can be reached at 860-261-5592 x202 or metter@bristolarc.org.