



MARC, INC. OF MANCHESTER
151 SHELDON ROAD
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT
06042

860-646-5718
FAX 860-645-9910

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: Kevin Zingler, Executive Director, MARC, Inc. of Manchester
February 18, 2016

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Kevin Zingler. I am the Executive Director of MARC, Inc. of Manchester, a nonprofit organization that provides Day, Residential, Respite, Personal Supports, Supported Employment and Transportation Services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Every day we serve over 275 people with disabilities and employ over 224 staff in the region. We are an organizational member of Arc of CT and recently merged CT Community Non Profit Alliance. I am here today to share my concerns with House Bill 5044: An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

As a partner with the Development of Developmental Services (DDS) we are concerned with proposed cuts of 5.75% or \$59 million dollars to the DDS budget. This proposed cut coupled with previous reductions, has unfortunately brought us to a point where for the first time in our states great history, a waiting list has been established for individuals seeking employment and day services as they transition out of high school. This list coupled with the 2,000 individuals on

MARC, Inc. of Manchester is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization that supports people with developmental disabilities from Ashford, Bloomfield, Columbia, Coventry, East Hartford, Ellington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Mansfield Depot, New Britain, Newington, South Glastonbury, South Windsor, Stafford Springs, Vernon/Rockville, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor.

MEMBER UNIT OF ARC/CT AND ARC/US
A UNITED WAY AGENCY SERVING MANCHESTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

the waiting list for residential supports brings grave concern to me concerning the future direction of services for individuals with intellectual disabilities in our state.

Over the past several years, as the budget has been reduced, we have worked in partnership with DDS to create and develop efficient ways of providing services despite the economic realities faced. To this end we have on occasion had to provide additional services with reduced and/or without reimbursement to ensure the health and safety of individuals we support.

In addition to the cuts, I am concerned about the Governor's proposal to move to a fee for service system by moving community residential services from DDS to the Department of Social Services. While I think that this proposal is merit of consideration, I ask that you consider the short term and long term effects of such a change and ask you to consider the following items:

- Establishment of an oversight council made of various stakeholders (including nonprofit providers) that has the power to set Medicaid rate approval and authority to ensure such rates are fair for services.
- The hiring of a managed care expert to guide the transition.
- A proposed timeline for this transition.
- Establishment of a fund to support non-reoccurring transition costs and reduce unfunded mandates.
- Identification and implementation of best practices from States that provide fee for service systems.

These recommendations are key components to ensure the successful launch of a fee to service / managed care service in Connecticut. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectively Submitted,

Kevin Zingler, Executive Director

MARC, Inc. of Manchester

151 Sheldon Road

Manchester, CT 06042

(860) 646-5718 / kzingler@marcct.org

MARC, Inc. of Manchester is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization that supports people with developmental disabilities from Ashford, Bloomfield, Columbia, Coventry, East Hartford, Ellington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Mansfield Depot, New Britain, Newington, South Glastonbury, South Windsor, Stafford Springs, Vernon/Rockville, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor.