

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee**

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

**February 18, 2016**

*Haleigh E. Feldman, Ansonia CT*

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Haleigh Feldman, and I am a registered voter in the town of Ansonia.

I am here to testify on H.B. No. 5044, An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

I am opposed to any proposed cuts to the DMHAS and any mental health services and supports.

This act will cut funding to Community Care Teams by \$3 million. This program has already shown it will save the state money by encouraging joint effort between hospitals and community providers to stabilize individuals living in the community.

I urge you to keep crucial services available to the residents of Connecticut.

As a young adult living in the community, I receive a multitude of supports from Young Adult Services, the providers within my community. Cutting funds to community providers would greatly reduce the amount of assistance I obtain on a daily basis. I am expecting a baby girl in July, and the support I am already receiving from Young Adult Services is incredible. If the funds are greatly reduced to this program, these supports I receive now will also be reduced. When my child is born, I will need more assistance. If the amount I obtain now is reduced when my daughter is born, I am afraid I won't be able to provide for her in the ways I know I can with additional support. She deserves the best, and I need the support from my community providers so I can be the best me and provide the best for my daughter.

Thank you for your attention to these important services and supports.