

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
H.B. No. 5044 An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017
February 18, 2016
Carlos Martinez, East Hartford, CT

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

I started coming to InterCommunity, seeing a therapist, because I was in trouble with the court system and also I was suffering from stress. I became a member of Common Ground and joined their unfunded young adult program. My progress continued to go up and down; I still had stress and blackouts. Even though I still dealt with these things, I felt comfortable when I could be around positive people my own age. They cared about me.

Now I am more successful in my program. I run a video production team, that gets hired to travel around the state to teach young people technical skills of video editing, and that produces video and music for customers. I love it. It's an amazing experience, because I never knew that I could do something like that. It feels good when young adults look at me as a role model. I never thought I could feel that way.

None of this would be possible without DMHAS funding, because they are helping people from all different ages learn different skills. I am the successful person I am today, because of DMHAS programs like InterCommunity.

Thank you,

Carlos Martinez