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*Supportive Housing & Services
For Our Neighbors in Need*

February 18, 2016

The Honorable Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and Members of the
Appropriations Committee,

My name is John Bradley and I am the Executive Director of Liberty Community Services, a non-profit agency in New Haven whose mission is dedicated to ending homelessness. I am submitting testimony in support of maintaining the existing appropriation levels for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (“DMHAS”) in regards to housing services. The State of Connecticut, with the leadership of DHMAS and the Department of Housing, has made great progress in ending homelessness. If the DHMAS budget for these programs is cut, we are likely to see reversals in that progress. The services provided with these funds provide housing and support to an extremely vulnerable population – people who are homeless (usually for long duration) who are suffering with mental illness and often addiction issues. Without the support of the services in the DHMAS grants, these individuals are at risk of losing their housing and becoming homeless again. Multiple studies have shown that housing for these vulnerable individuals is cost effective from the taxpayers’ perspective. Without stable housing, medical and mental health care suffers and people incur expensive medical interventions. I urge the Committee not to support any cuts to housing services within the DHMAS budget.

Sincerely,

John Bradley
Executive Director