

## 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

Angelina Norris, Windsor CT

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

My name is Angelina Norris and I am a registered voter in the town of Windsor, CT. 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. I do not want to see the regional mental health boards essentially cut because the regional mental health boards collectively help bring in 23 million dollars in federal funds to Connecticut. While the regional mental health boards are bringing in federal funds the community care teams that we have in Connecticut are saving the state money by collaborating between hospitals and community providers. Would you want the State of Connecticut to cut the regional mental health boards that are bringing in state funds and reduce the community care teams by 3 million when they are saving the state money?

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

I have been with DMHAS since I have turned 21 years old and I have been a part of many of these services that might get cut. I will tell you one thing it was a struggle at first getting to know the DHMAS system and with thanks to the help of the regional mental health board who helped me to find what services are out there and which was that were going to help me was a big help. When I stepped in the door of DHMAS there was no one there to tell me "Oh if you need help with housing these is the service you need!" If it was not for the regional mental health board at that I would not have known what to do. Not does the regional mental health board help people find the resources out there we are a voice, we are there speaking on behalf of others who need help and need the support that we once needed. Along with the help from the regional mental health board about services I have gotten help from the Community support teams from time to time. Like I have stated earlier walking through the doors of DHMAS was not easy and not only did the regional mental health boards help me but also did the community support teams. The community support team was there to communicate between the hospitals and the care providers. Anytime that I ended up being placed in the hospital there was a community support team there to know what my discharge plans were and how to relay that back to the care providers and along with that a plan of action when this sort of thing happened again. Not long ago I was in the Young Adult Program and it helped me out tremendously. The young adult program was a stepping stone for me from a group home into my own apartment with no staff watching me 24/7. Without the young adult services helping me I would not have gotten where I am today. In the young adult program I have learned coping skills to help me with everyday life, I learned how to take care of my own money, how to register for school and access the things that I need in school to succeed. Without any of these things in place or without the money they have know I probably would not have made it this far in life.

So please I urge you when this bill passes by on the senate floor or on the representatives floor think about how it might affect others in our community and how it might affect the

community as a whole when these services are no longer to help the people because they do not have the money or the funds to do so.

Thank you for your time Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and the appropriations committee.