DATE: February 26, 2018
TO: Government Administration and Elections Committee
FROM: Ben Shaiken, Manager of Advocacy & Public Policy
RE: S.B. No. 179 An Act Requiring a Performance Audit of Certain Government Programs

Sen. Flexer, Sen. McLachlan, Rep. Fox, Rep. Devlin and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Ben Shaiken, Manager of Advocacy & Public Policy at the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance. The Alliance is Connecticut's statewide association of community nonprofits. Our members deliver essential services to more than half a million people each year and employ almost 14% of Connecticut's workforce.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on S.B. 179 "An Act Requiring a Performance Audit of Certain Government Programs." **We are concerned this bill will unduly burden nonprofits**, who have endured years of budget cuts without any reduction in the level of service they are expected to provide or the oversight under which they operate.

Connecticut's community nonprofits are partners with the State to serve the people of Connecticut. They take care of people with disabilities, feed the hungry, provide behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, and help the formerly incarcerated transition to the community. Nonprofits that are paid by the State to provide these essential services are already subject to significant and rigorous oversight by the State, including licensing, results based accountability, numerous quality assurance processes, internal and state-administered audits, and many other requirements too numerous to list.

While providers welcome accountability for their services, we are concerned that S.B. 179 expands the authority of the Auditors of Public Accounts in such a way that it could add another burden to Connecticut's community nonprofits.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

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