Testimony Regarding HB No. 7148 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2021 and Making Appropriations Therefor.

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Representative Lavielle and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My husband and I are writing in support of the Governor’s recommendations under HB. 7148. We have a 25 year old daughter with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Our family is appreciative that the budget, as recommended by Governor Lamont, serves to provide the following:

- **No cuts to current services.**
- **Employment & Day Support Funding for New Graduates.**
- **Funding for Enhanced Crisis Intervention & Behavioral Supports**
  - To address critical needs and to transition individuals who would otherwise languish in emergency departments:
    1. Step up/step down beds designed to divert individuals in crisis and in need of behavioral stabilization from emergency department settings.
    2. A state-operated respite center open seven days per week specializing in crisis respite and reintegration work.
    3. An Enhanced Family Support team that will focus on rapid response for more than 3,700 individuals and families experiencing crisis in community-based settings by providing behavioral supports, case management, speech therapy and other services.
- **Funding for New Supportive Housing**
  - 70 new supportive housing units in FY 2020 that will expand the continuum of residential services for with individuals with intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder in their own apartments with wraparound services such as in-home supports, case management and rental assistance.

Please know that these services are critical in order for families to make plans for the future and to ensure that these vulnerable people can lead as productive lives as possible. As aging parents, this budget, as proposed, is a step in the right direction to address the issues that our daughter and we are facing. We ask that you do not make any cuts to Department of Developmental Services or any agencies that support these people.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Mariani and Ron Murallo
16 Wilson Avenue, Quaker Hill, CT 06375