February 26, 2019

My name is Ryan Soloway and I am a resident of Glastonbury, CT. I wish to testify regarding The Governor’s Bill 7148, The DMHAS budget.

I’m 39 years old and I’ve been with the mental health system since a child. At that time, there were a lot of injustices that have occurred. Even though it has gotten better, it still is not a completely reliable system. The biggest problem is like a revolving door. If you don’t keep services for mental illness, housing and case management, then you will just shift the budget over to the Prison Industrial Complex which destroys lives and families and never allows for rehabilitation or recovery. People need safe housing which creates stability for the person and the community and is a cost-effective way to develop someone’s life and escape the cycle of despair called the system.

Please do not cut the funding; I know the state needs more funding, but this is not a place to cut the budget. It needs to be preserved or increased to the 2017 budget at 24.2 million. Please let others receive some of the help I’ve received.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Soloway

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