Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

March 1, 2019

HB 7148: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNUM ENDING JUNE 13, 2021 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

David Gedraitis

Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you all for being here. I am here to support the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Mental Health Connecticut funding. They have been cut to the bone and everyone there are doing more work and are overloaded.

In the past I went on trips in the community; Shopping, recreation and community outings. Also award ceremonies that many went to. These all helped to stop the isolation and aloneness that we all feel.

The help I get from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Mental Health Connecticut is valuable and meaningful to me as a person. People need somewhere to go for help, fellowship and support.

There is a lot of sickness in the world. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Mental Health Connecticut’s Independence Center provide an oasis in the middle of our struggles. We all need the help with recovering from all the problems of a broken life. The groups and care of these professionals keep all of us from getting lost and give safety and security. I really benefit from the groups, therapy and fellowship I get at these places.

These places help everyone to attain recovery and well-being and I miss the programs that have been previously cut or discontinued and hope that there will be more funding to restore these needed services. These agencies help us reach our goals to maintain a positive way of life for all who need the help- they helped me grow.

Thank you.