Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

March 1, 2019

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

CAROL G. GEE

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

My name is Carol G. Gee, I am a registered voter from Waterbury, Connecticut.

I have been involved with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services since the year 2000. After I was incarcerated for Breach of Peace and was not on medication. I am Schizophrenic and my mind was racing and I was depressed over losing my children. When I was incarcerated, I got on medication and it helped me like it helps many others.

After I was no longer incarcerated, I became a member of Mental Health Connecticut, which was then called the Independence Center. Greater Waterbury Mental Health was where I was treated with the care of a doctor and received medication. After that, in 2002, I graduated from Advocacy Unlimited, and then in 2003, I attended Housatonic Community College, where I graduated with a Mental Health Certificate in 2005.

I have my children back in my life now, and I recently wrote a book called Resilience that was published, which tells about my struggle with mental health and then the achievements that I have made since I have been on medication. All these achievements would not have been made if not for the support and acceptance from Mental Health Connecticut, because it is a place that I can go and feel like I fit in. The Independence Center is great and being able to communicate with people more like myself is very important for me and I am sure for everyone else who is a member there. Without it, I would not have the satisfaction of living a full life, which includes being accepted and social circles. Please keep the funding for Mental Health Connecticut coming, because it is so important for people like me who may have nowhere else to go...

Thank you for listening to my testimony today.