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.  
Denise M. Hart  

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

My name is Denise M. Hart and I am a registered voter in Windsor Locks.  

I am here to testify regarding HB 7148 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET  
FOR THE BIENNium ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING  
APPROPRIATION  

I am a member of several organizations, such as, North Central Regional Mental  
Health Board (NCRMHB), R & E (Review and Evaluation Committee), CHR  
Community Health Resources, KTP (Keep the Promise), SWCH (Second Wind Club  
House) AU (Advocacy Unlimited).  
I, also, facilitate a Hearing Voices Group on Tuesday Evenings, which was made  
available to me by training provided by Advocacy Unlimited.  

Because of budget and staff cuts, there are many functions that Clubhouses are  
unable to be a part of because lack of transportation and or funding.  

After many years of reductions in grants for mental health and addiction services,  
DMHAS is being reduced again by 2 Million dollars.  

For mental Health services there are no new Federal dollars to make up the  
difference.  

There is still no line item for the Regional Behavioral Health Organizations  
(RBHAO's), that funding is now entirely dependent on federal dollars.  

For Young Adults Services is reduced by about $250,000 in the Governor’s  
proposed budget. For approximately 2/3 of all people who experience chronic  
mental health challenges, young adulthood presents a final opportunity for early
intervention to derail a lifetime of disability. DMHAS Young Adult Services are needed to support the successful transition to adulthood.

Funding is needed for alternatives to traditional clinical care, such as holistic healing modalities and peer support. Funding community based mental health services as an alternative to incarceration and institutionalization. Funding employment opportunities for those in recovery. Funding CLRP (CT. Legal Rights Project) to continue its vital work to represent low income adult clients with mental health conditions.

Permanent supportive housing, which combines housing subsidy with case management is highly effective at ending homelessness of those who need assistance and is proven to save communities up to 70% of the cost they will incur when chronic homelessness persists.

Thank you for listening to my testimony today