Senators Osten and Formica, Representatives Walker and Lavielle, and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee, it is my privilege to address leaders who have shown unwavering dedication to the needs of people with mental illness and addictions.

My name is John Krystal. I chair the Yale Department of Psychiatry; a group of more than 1,000 faculty, trainees, and staff who work at sites from Greenwich to New London.

My comments address a serious threat to CMHC posed by the more than $1M in cuts to CMHC in the governor’s proposed DMHAS budget. I am here, once again, to join with others here today to ask you to protect the DMHAS budget.

I’m going to highlight four critical reasons to overturn these proposed cuts.

1. **We cannot afford to deprive patients of their treatment.** CMHC is the primary provider of treatment for patients with chronic disabling mental illnesses and addictions in the New Haven area. There is no safety net if CMHC could not fulfill its mission. The research unit at CMHC is an important part of this safety net and it will close if the cuts are enacted.

2. **The cuts would cost us a statewide resource.** CMHC patients come from 101 of Connecticut’s 169 cities and towns. CMHC houses unique programs that have a statewide impact, such as the STEP Program for young people with new psychosis symptoms, La Clinica Hispana, for Spanish-speaking patients, or our Forensic Psychiatry Programs that work at the interface of mental illness and the legal system. These programs are vulnerable. The last round of cuts closed the CMHC Adult Outpatient Clinic in West Haven.

3. **The cuts would undermine the role of CMHC in addressing the critical statewide shortage of psychiatrists.** We attract the best and brightest; this year we had 1300 applicants for 16 slots. Yet DMHAS cuts have progressively reduced the number of CMHC trainees.

4. **The cuts do not make sense fiscally and undermine the State’s partnership with Yale.**
   a. **Yale is already supporting CMHC’s role in developing new treatments and biotechnologies.** Recently, Yale invested $10M in CMHC renovations and it provides $1.2M in annual ongoing support to CMHC faculty.
   b. **The $1.2M state investment in research infrastructure at CMHC is critical** because it covers expenses that cannot be supported by grants. This support enabled us to bring $23.6 million in federal grants to Connecticut
this past year. Also, these grants will return nearly $800,000 in overhead cost recoveries to the State General Fund, covering the lion’s share of the State’s annual investment.

c. **CMHC research has been a magnet for investment in Connecticut,**
   drawing Pfizer’s Clinical Research Unit to New Haven, across the street from CMHC.

d. **CMHC research programs have spun off companies including Neurogen, PsychoGenics, Spring Healthcare, and Biohaven Pharmaceuticals.** Biohaven, located in New Haven, debuted in May, 2017 and now has a total value of $1.6 B.

**In closing:** CMHC is a critical community and state resource, a national model for clinical innovation, and an engine for the Connecticut economy. It is essential to preserve the integrity of the CMHC mission by protecting DMHAS funding.