

**MARCH 25, 2021**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**Public Hearing on:**  
**H.B. 6636 An Act Concerning COVID-19 and Enhanced Federal Medicaid Funding**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Berthel, Representative Case and members of the Human Services Committee: I am the Director of Education at Community Child Guidance School in Manchester Connecticut. The CCGC School provides specialized academic instruction with intensive behavioral and therapeutic support to students from across Central Connecticut, ages 3-15 years old, who are struggling in public school settings due to emotional and behavioral challenges. We are committed to helping children gain the emotional, social, and academic skills necessary, in order to return to less restrictive school environments and achieve their full potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of H.B. 6636 An Act Concerning COVID-19 and Enhanced Federal Medicaid Funding**. The American Rescue Plan is expected to bring \$10 billion into Connecticut, with over \$4 billion going directly to state and local governments. Connecticut is set to receive a significant increase in federal matching funds for Medicaid, including a 10% increase for Home and Community Based Services as well as the continuation of the 6.2% increase that began in the Spring of 2020. While nonprofit providers were allocated a portion of the Coronavirus Relief Fund, those funds were spent months ago, and the State has not used the increased federal Medicaid match to increase rates or otherwise compensate providers.

**Community nonprofits have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.** Many never closed their doors and have been meeting the needs of the communities they serve despite the risks. COVID-19 brought unanticipated and unbudgeted costs and operational challenges for community providers, and for many, Medicaid is a primary or significant source of funding. School Tuition revenue for CCGC School is \$428,000 under budget for the current year and \$494,000 less than the prior year

As you may know, community nonprofits have **requested that the legislature appropriate \$461 million over the next five years for community nonprofits**. Since 2007, community nonprofits have lost at least \$461 million in state funding that has not kept pace with inflation or adequately covered increased costs and demand for services over the last thirteen years. COVID-19 has only exacerbated those challenges.

Because a substantial portion of the \$461 million restoration for community nonprofits will be to provide increased Medicaid rates, the **enhanced FMAP is a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Connecticut General Assembly to address these needs**. This influx of federal funding combined with the state's strong Rainy Day Fund, and more than \$400 million in unexpended Medicaid funds, puts the state in the unique position to use those funds to directly support nonprofit programs and fulfill their needs without complicating the state budget process.

Congress intended for the American Rescue Plan to help Americans across the country get to the other side of COVID-19, and this bill would provide significant support to help community nonprofits emerge from COVID-19 stronger and more ready to meet the needs of our communities.

We urge the Committee to support H.B. 6636.

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