



MARCH 25, 2021
Human Services Committee
Public Hearing on:

H.B. 6636 An Act Concerning COVID-19 and Enhanced Federal Medicaid Funding

My name is Steven Schwartz and I live in Woodbridge. I am the Board Chair of Marrakech Inc. Marrakech provides day, residential, and other services to around 1000 people with intellectual and other disabilities. We have 715 employees who are dedicated to providing the best possible care to the individuals with disabilities.

Our funding comes from DDS, DMHAS, and other State agencies. However, despite the high quality service that our staff provide, our staff go year after year without a cost of living increase. Every year, our staff face an increased cost of living without an increase in their income to compensate. Every year, Marrakech must pay vendors more money for health insurance, snow plowing, and other services. In addition, COVID issues have negatively impacted our finances. This makes life very difficult for our staff, our consumers, and their families.

Bill 6636 is an opportunity to help turnaround the finances of the nonprofits in Connecticut. I urge the Committee to support H.B. 6636.