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SENATE AND HOUSE REPUBLICAN OF THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
Informational Hearing
May 11, 2015

Thank you to all for support & especially – to those who voted to restore funding for vital services provided by nonprofits in partnership with the state.

Please continue to support reinstatement of cuts that were reflected in the Governor's Budget.

The cuts impact our DCF funded work to learn programs in New Haven and Waterbury, in which we would have to cut 55 slots, most currently filled with youth in the DCF Foster Care System. This would also in turn cut current FTE's.

The cuts impact the families we currently support who are caring for children with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities at home. This already chronically underfunded/ill rated program would drastically decrease, if not end support for them.

The cuts impact families who we are trying to help by providing in home supports and/or day programs for their sons/daughters, fostering the maintenance of the family unit. The cuts eliminate this opportunity for them, again leaving them with no assistance.

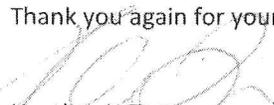
As you are well aware, the impact of 20+ years of chronic underfunding (average of less than .05% for the past 25 years) basically equates to cuts.

We recently lost three employees who all took jobs doing the same or similar work with the State DDS, one at Southbury Training School. They were hired with pensions, higher salaries and richer benefits. This disrupts services for individuals that we currently support.

We all have to be fiscally responsible when it comes to our budgets. The high quality, cost-effective services as provided by the private sector have been the State of Connecticut's solution to balancing the State budget. It would be irresponsible to impose any cuts that would not only reduce these services, but result in an increased need for supplemental services at a greatly increased cost to the State of Connecticut.

Finally, it is important to understand the facts about the rumored "necessity" of the State to run a dual service system by providing programs for people with disabilities alongside its private partners. In January, 2012, the CT Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee released a study related to the Provision of Selected Services for Clients (Individuals) with Intellectual Disabilities. The study clearly outlines the fact that the private sector has the capability to provide services that are equal if not superior to state-provided services, both in terms of quality and health and safety outcomes.

Thank you again for your support.



Heather LaTorra
President and CEO

