



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

September 28, 2015

Sen. Marilyn Moore, Chair
Human Services Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 2000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Sen. Terry Gerratana, Chair
Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Rep. Catherine Abercrombie, Chair
Human Services Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2002
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Rep. Matthew Ritter, Chair
Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3004
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Committee Chairs:

The governor's September 18, 2015 rescissions to the fiscal year 2016 budget include severe cuts to vital safety net services, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, developmental services, and hospitals across the state. We suspect you share my concern about the impact of these reductions. Before they become a reality, we ask that the General Assembly's Human Services Committee and Public Health Committee hold a public hearing to better understand the extent of the damage these rescissions will create.

These cuts were imposed without any input from the public or from lawmakers and the constituents we represent. While the governor does have rescissionary authority, the extent of these cuts concentrated on public health and human service areas raises serious questions.

These rescissions have undone the hard work you put in to restore many social services reductions the governor initially proposed in February. Although we did not see eye to eye on the final budget, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle clearly opposed the worst of these cuts. Unified opposition helped move Connecticut in a different direction; we hope we might again work together to that end.

We kindly ask for a response by next Monday, October 5, 2015 so that we may plan appropriately for a public hearing to take place as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joe Markley,
Ranking Member,
Human Services Committee &
Public Health Committee

Rep. Terrie Wood,
Ranking Member,
Human Services Committee

Rep. Prasad Srinivasan,
Ranking Member,
Public Health Committee