Talking Points

Please use these talking points as a basis for your testimony and tailor accordingly.

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Representative Lavielle, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today in support of the Medicaid Supportive Housing Benefit through the Department of Social Services to assist high need high cost Medicaid beneficiaries who are experiencing homelessness in accessing and retaining stable housing and meaningfully engaging with their health goals.

Talking Points

• Connecticut continues to lead the nation in efforts to address the important and expensive problem of homelessness.

• Investment in proven solutions to homelessness are necessary to continue our progress and ensure that every youth, family, and individual has a place to call home.

• In 2016, Connecticut was one of eight states selected through a competitive process to participate in the Medicaid-Housing Partnership Innovation Accelerator Program. Through this initiative technical assistance was provided to help Connecticut design ways to support individuals served by Medicaid in accessing and retaining stable housing and engaging with their health goals.

• Under this proposal, a 1915(i) state plan home and community-based services benefit will be developed to provide supportive housing to up to 850 individuals who experience homelessness and whose average Medicaid costs exceed $40,000 per year.

• Transition and tenancy-sustaining supports have been found to be effective at achieving housing stability as well as improved health, community integration and life satisfaction.

• This proven, cost-effective strategy has been shown to lower public costs associated with the use of crisis services such as shelters, hospitals, jails, and prisons.

• After factoring in the federal share, this proposal is expected to reduce total Medicaid expenditures by $2.7 million in FY 2020 and $13.9 million in FY 2021.

• Homelessness is a costly problem, in the toll it takes on human lives, and the toll it takes on public resources. We know what works to end homelessness – through coordinated efforts to secure the right housing and supports, we can resolve homelessness – one person, one family at
a time. The net gain to those we serve, to our communities, and to our state is clear: it costs more to allow homelessness to persist than it does to resolve it.

- PLEASE ADD POINTS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THESE PROGRAMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, AND PLEASE SHARE ANY STORIES THAT YOU CAN WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC, ANONYMOUS INDIVIDUALS.

- Homelessness is an unacceptable condition for any Connecticut resident, and an expensive public policy problem. We urge you to support the Medicaid Supportive Housing Benefit through the Department of Social Services to assist individuals served by Medicaid in accessing the supportive housing needed to maintain stable housing and improve their overall health outcomes and well-being.

- Thank you for hearing my testimony and thank you for your support to efforts to end homelessness in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME
YOUR TITLE
YOUR AGENCY