



**CONNECTICUT
ASSOCIATION
of NONPROFITS**

*...to serve, strengthen
and support Connecticut's
nonprofit community.*

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 9, 2010

Senate Bill 316: An Act Establishing A Commission on Nonprofit Health & Human Services

Senate Bill 219: An Act Concerning State Contract Reductions

House Bill 5356: An Act Concerning Purchase of Service Contracts

Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, I am Maureen Price-Boreland, Executive Director of Community Partners In Action and Board Vice-President of the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits.

On behalf of nonprofit providers of health and human services programs throughout the State of Connecticut, our clients, their families and our thousands of dedicated employees, thank you to the Human Services Committee for raising **SB 316 An Act Establishing A Commission on Nonprofit Health and Human Services**. It is all of our hope that this legislation will signify a positive, game-changing approach to the long term strategies so badly needed to strengthen the foundation of our service delivery system.

Community Partners in Action is an old historic non-profit that has been providing services for the criminal justice population for 135 years. We operate a myriad of services for both the adult and juvenile population statewide with several locations in the Greater Hartford and Hamden area. As an organization that is predominantly funded by several state agencies, we see the value of a consistent coordinated approach to the oversight of Human Services programming.

Earlier this year, the Human Services Committee formed the Task Force on Community Based Human Services and conducted two public hearings. This subsequent proposed legislation represents the outcome of this initiative. As you may remember, for the past two years this Committee has initiated or heard similar legislation and acted favorably. Two years ago, comparable legislation was passed unanimously in both House and Senate but ended with a gubernatorial veto.

For a long time we have been advocating for a long-term solution to the funding situation, facing provider organizations helping the State of Connecticut accomplish its mission in serving the citizens of our State. The current reality promises no funding increases in three consecutive years to confront increasing operating costs. All this at a time when the demands on our capacity to deliver

services is greater and under intensified stress. In addition, in the case of some state departments, we are receiving less money and failing to have contracts executed in a timely fashion costing us further expense by having to utilize a line of credit. The State gets a bargain depending on the largesse of the nonprofit sector.

There are more than 650 distinct organizations that hold a Purchase of Service contract with the state for health & human services through one or more of six state departments and the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division. SB 316 will bring together many great minds to collectively identify problems and consider solutions to the inconsistent funding of these contracts. It will provide the necessary focus to both Executive and Legislative branches of government to review and outline future steps for addressing the long term fiscal challenges facing nonprofit health and human services. We would once again appreciate the Human Services Committee's effort to launch us down the road towards a successful outcome.

SB 219 An Act Concerning State Contract Reductions

Permits state contracting nonprofits to reduce "budget expenditures" in accordance with a cut of 5% or above. Fairness would dictate that if the State were to reduce its funding, a nonprofit cannot continue to provide the same 100% of the services previously agreed to under contract. Treating nonprofits as real partners would allow for the ability to adjust expenditure but also to accordingly adjust level of program services with a reduction in funding amounts.

HB 5356 An Act Concerning Purchase of Service Contracts

Calls on the Office of Policy & Management to standardize policies and procedures for purchase of service contracts. Connecticut Nonprofits supports the concept of greater standardization which would still permit flexibility and encourage creative efficiency on the part of individual state departments. We believe there is something in between time & money wasting, duplicative policies, procedures, and reporting and "one size fits all" standardization.