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**#ProtectEssentialServices**

*Community services are essential and should be off-limits to budget cuts*

April 10, 2019

Dear Representative / Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Office #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Community nonprofits improve our quality of life, making Connecticut a better place to live and work. Nonprofits feed the hungry, house the homeless, support people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, treat people with mental health and substance abuse needs, and provide arts and culture that make our communities vibrant. Nonprofits also employ thousands of people in towns and cities across the state.

**Please protect and fully fund community services in the State budget.** It is time that community services be treated in the same manner as fixed costs: they should be off the table when budget cuts are discussed.

**Please support and build on the Governor’s proposal to shift State-operated services in to the nonprofit community**. Community nonprofits can continue to reduce state costs and meet the demand for services if state leaders take the necessary steps.

**Please protect nonprofit tax exemptions**, which will ensure funding is used for services, not taxes. Nonprofits reduce costs by providing services and programs so that government doesn’t have to.

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*Thank you,*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_