

May 1, 2023

Hon. Matthew Ritter  
State Capitol  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Speaker Ritter:

Connecticut is at a budget crossroads. Decisions we make today should be about what's best for Connecticut's people, now and in the future.

The Appropriations Committee's proposed budget, drafted under so many constraints, does not adequately fund the needs of the state, needs that have grown in the wake of a multi-year pandemic, an unprecedented period of inflation and a statewide workforce crisis. These came after many years in which critical needs were unmet for programs for health and human services, education and more.

At long last, Connecticut can begin to address those needs. The current-year's surplus is about \$3.3 billion above what is needed for the budget and a full Budget Reserve Fund. The Fiscal Accountability reports late last year predicted surpluses for the next several years.

State government has recently been able to pay down some long-term obligations and is considering targeted tax cuts. We can continue to do those things, but our quality-of-life depends on us also seizing this unique moment for the residents of our state who need your help.

If not now, when?

We know that finding ways to fund so many needs will not be easy, it will require difficult choices, whether within the context of the current budget proposals, the state's revenue structure or budgetary legal constraints. We know that some of those choices may be unpopular.

The organizations listed below will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you when you make tough decisions and do whatever is necessary to fund programs our residents need. We will speak individually and collectively to the public to explain why investment today in the women, men and children of our state will benefit Connecticut in the future.

We ask for a bipartisan effort to fund Connecticut's needs today and we look forward to working with you for a brighter future for Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gian-Carl Casa  
President and CEO  
CT Community Nonprofit Alliance

Lisa Hammersley  
Executive Director  
School and State Finance Project

Matthew Barrett  
President and CEO  
CT Association of Health Care Facilities

Sarah Eagan  
Child Advocate  
State of Connecticut

Lisa Tepper-Bates  
President and CEO  
United Way of Connecticut

Julieth Callejas  
Executive Director  
End Hunger CT

Win Everts  
Executive Director  
ARC Connecticut

Kathy Flaherty  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Legal Rights Project

Tracey Wodatch  
President and CEO  
CT Association of Health Care At Home

Joe DeLong  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Catherine John  
Founder  
Black and Brown United in Action

Merrill Gay  
Executive Director  
CT Early Childhood Alliance

John Merz  
CEO  
Connecticut Advancing Together

Robert Muro  
President and CEO  
Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies

Deb Polun  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Association for Community Action

Liz P. Taylor  
Executive Director  
NAMI Connecticut

Mag Morelli  
President  
LeadingAge CT

Emily Byrne  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Voices for Children

Jordan Fairchild  
Executive Director  
Keep The Promise Coalition

Molly Cole  
Coordinator, CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance  
Executive Director, CT State Independent Living  
Council