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Public Hearing Testimony before the  
Connecticut General Assembly's Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Deb Polun, Executive Director  
Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA)

*Supporting*  
**House Bill 6612: An Act Concerning Nonprofit  
Health and Human Services Providers**

February 28, 2023

Distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for holding this public hearing today. The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) is the state association that works with Connecticut's nine Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the state and federally designated anti-poverty agencies providing a wide variety of services to nearly 200,000 low- and moderate-income people in all 169 cities and towns across the state. I have included more information about Community Action Agencies at the end of this testimony.

**House Bill 6612: An Act Concerning Nonprofit Health and Human Services Providers**

CAFCA supports this proposal, specifically section 4, which would increase and speed up payments to nonprofit providers.

This section:

- ☞ Provides an annual cost of living adjustment for nonprofit providers, so that they can keep up with labor costs and continue to provide high-quality services;
- ☞ Ensures nonprofits will be paid within thirty days of providing services; and,
- ☞ Streamlines administrative reporting requirements.

All of these are reasonable requests for any contractor providing services, whether on behalf of the state or a private company.

Regarding the annual cost of living increase, specifically, as minimum wage is now indexed to rise each year, it is only sensible to provide these increases to providers, so they can pass them along to staff. Without increases indexed to cost of living, providers will be mandated to increase wages – without due compensation from the state.

Please note that CAFCA requests that increases provided and referenced in the state budget are mirrored in the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) line item, in the Department of Social Services' budget; this line is how the state supports Community Action Agencies in their work to serve low-income people. That is, if, for example, providers of services through DMHAS and DDS are to receive a 6% increase, we request that the HSI line item be increased by 6% as well.

Thank you all for your consideration of this important proposal, which, ultimately, would help your neediest constituents – and as always, for your service to our state. Please feel free to get in touch with any questions: [deb@cafca.org](mailto:deb@cafca.org) or 860-832-9438.

