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Rosa DeLauro  
Congresswoman  
District Office  
59 Elm Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro

My name is Faith Kasor, I am a student at Alliance University in Manhattan, New York enrolled in the MSW program. I am writing to you today as a future social worker residing in Derby Connecticut, District #114.

After reading your biography on your website, I was pleased to read about all your work fighting for women's issues in Connecticut.

I have always admired the work you do in New Haven and the surrounding towns which are very diverse. I have witnessed your involvement supporting local organizations and communities in the state. Reading some of the bills you advocated for, I was intrigued to know that you have supported women throughout your career with issues such as eliminating pay discrimination and promoting equal pay for women working the same jobs as men. You have empowered women to challenge pay discrimination in the workplace in Connecticut. It shows how much you have fought for women's rights for paid sick days, paid family and medical leave, wage theft prevention, and expanded and improved Child Tax Credits.

I would like to discuss the drug abuse and mental health problems we face in New Haven County and other communities in Connecticut. In 2018, over 70 people overdosed on the green in New Haven due to opioid, fentanyl, and other street drugs. Since then, there have been numerous deaths and overdoses in Connecticut daily. Most of those who are overdosing on the street are homeless. I know a young man who went to high school with my son, he had a bright future with a supporting middle class family. He was exposed to street drugs that caused his death in 2021 when the police found his body lying on State Street in New Haven. His death was devastating to all of us. His parents did everything they could do but he relapsed and died on the streets.

I am writing to you because this issue is becoming a pandemic in our beautiful state. There is a desperate need for more social workers, Mental Health workers, psychiatrists, doctors, and

nurses to help these vulnerable populations. These professionals need to be compensated well to avoid burn out and so they can continue their work helping this vulnerable population. The state could benefit from having more shelters, treatment centers, group homes, counseling and therapy facilities that operate during the daytime and other facilities to house the unhoused at night.

This issue is not just affecting the homeless people on the street. It is affecting most households because the environment becomes toxic when drugs are easy to find on the streets.

Since you have been a great advocate for women issues in the state. I am appealing to you to help young women struggling with addiction in Connecticut and giving birth to babies addicted to drugs. As a future social worker in Connecticut, I would like to discuss plans for girls and women addicted to drugs to improve their livelihood and well-being. I believe we can create more women/men shelters and skills training programs to help this population. The state needs more shelters or temporary facilities to help people struggling with mental illness so that they have a place to go rather than being on the streets without hope.

I appreciate your time reading this letter. Hope to hear from you regarding this issue affecting our communities. Here is my contact information if you would like to contact me for discussion. My cell# 203-824-9131 and email is [kasorf@allianceu.edu](mailto:kasorf@allianceu.edu)

Sincerely yours

Faith Kasor