

From: John H.D. Lucy [jlucy.wilde@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Theresa Utton
Subject: State Budget Hearing

Theresa,

I will be unable to make the budget hearings on Monday evening but I wanted to share that I hope the FY 2020 budget will include full statutory funding for VHCB (21.8 million, 50% of the property transfer tax), as the governor's budget unfortunately calls for cuts.

As a pastor, I often talk to the folks coming to our local food shelf and even in a fairly wealthy town like Jericho, the issue is always affordable housing. Housing is too expensive for people which leads them into problematic situations, food insecurity being only one among many. Sometimes people are forced into or to stay in abusive relationships because they cannot pay for housing on their own, and do not want to be left without shelter; sometimes people fall into other unhealthy relationships with drug-addled roommates and become themselves drug addicts; sometimes, of course, they become food insecure and are so afraid of asking for help that they fall behind, and are then desperate by the time they come to us.

In short, if we fully fund affordable housing projects now, we won't put a strain on the system later--both the state and charitable system. I am therefore deeply displeased by the governor's proposed cuts and I would encourage legislators to commit to full statutory funding of VHCB.

Thanks!

God's Peace,
Rev. John H.D. Lucy
Jericho UMC and Waterbury Center CC

-Via Crucis, Via Lucis
[Writing to Live](#)
[27 Million Revolutions](#)