**Contacting Your State Legislators – How You Can Help**

You can make a difference by **contacting your Connecticut state representative and state senator** and urging them to support increased funding for direct care worker wages in this year's state budget. Your voice matters – hearing directly from families helps legislators understand the real impact of their decisions.

**How to Contact Your Legislators:**
**Step 1**: Visit www.cga.ct.gov

**Step 2**: Use the "Find Your Legislators" tool by selecting your town, street name, and house number.

- You can use your personal home address if you are a Connecticut resident *and* the address of your loved one's Gilead location.

**Step 3**: Identify your Connecticut state representative and state senator.

- **Important:** Make sure you're locating your **state** legislators – **not** your U.S. senator or U.S. representative.

**Step 4**: Find contact information by clicking the "Title (Contact)" links.

**Step 5**: Contact them by phone or email or phone using the script below.

**Sample Call/Email Script:**

Hello, my name is [Your Name] [*if you live in Connecticut, include your home address*]. I am a [parent/guardian/family member] of [your loved one's name], who receives care through the [type of program at Gilead Community Services in [city].

I'm asking you to support increased funding in the state budget for wages for direct care workers at vital nonprofits like Gilead. These employees provide essential, compassionate care for people with disabilities every day, and their work deserves to be valued and fairly compensated.

Without this funding, there is a very real possibility of a labor strike – and people like [your loved one] who depend on staff for critical care and support will be directly affected.

[Optional: Share a short personal story about your loved one, how Gilead's services have made a difference, and what concerns you most if a strike occurs.]

Please advocate for the funding needed to prevent this disruption and ensure continuity of care for people like [your loved one's name].

Thank you for your time and your support.