

Testimony of Gabrielle Kitchener  
Human Services Committee  
February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Good Afternoon members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Gabrielle Kitchener. I have psychiatric and physical disabilities. I am here today to testify about increasing the Medicaid income limit and reducing the reliance on spend downs.

Medicaid is a state and federal medical insurance that covers low-income seniors, people that are blind, and people with disabilities. A spend down is a program where a person on Medicaid who goes above a certain income limit has to incur six months worth of medical bills before being covered by Medicaid again.

I receive Medicaid and I am in danger of going on a spend down because my income will be above the limit. I can incur six months worth of medical bills but I don't know how I can manage without Medicaid because it covers my home health care.

I am not the only one in this predicament. There are thousands of people in Connecticut who are on spend down or who are not eligible for Medicaid because of the income limit.

There are things we can do to reduce the suffering and reduce the number of people who are denied medical insurance. The people who are denied medical coverage are typically low-income and cannot afford to purchase their own insurance. The things we can do to resolve these issues are: we can raise the medically needy income limit to a more reasonable level and ensure that it is adjusted annually to prevent loss of coverage.

Please consider these solutions for a much needy and deserving population.