

HB 5640

Testimony of Janet Auster  
Human Services Committee  
February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
170 Sisson Avenue Bldg 5 Apt 102  
Hartford, CT, 06105

Greetings Senator Harris, Representative Villano, and members of the Human Services Committee,

I am Janet Auster, residing in Hartford, and an advocate at AU and the Chrysalis Center. I am here tonight to urge you to raise the amount of income before making us pay out of pocket for our medication. These seven bottles are meds that I take and cost \$7,000 a year. I take the risperidol for hallucinations and concentration. I take the tegretol to manage my moods. I take the eskalith for mood swings. I take the ambien for sleeping. I take the cogentin for muscle relaxation. I take bustar to relieve my anxiety. I take wellbutrin for smoking cessation and depression.

It is extremely fundamental for my well-being to take these pills. I would unsafe without them.

We are being put into a bind. We can't work because we have to pay for our meds and would no money left. We can't get an income from social security because we would have to pay for our medication and starve and be left without anything. Please raise the income to the husky level. Please give us our hope and lives back. What difference does it make if we smoke cigarettes if we don't have a life we can breathe in anyways?

I have quit cigarettes for over five years. I don't drink. I don't take drugs. I don't kill. I don't steal. Why do I deserve to be so unhappy? We're all getting along and doing the best we can and happy even though this decision hasn't been made and we all respect you and honor your decisions. However, if you did raise the income, we would be able to recover and, as advocates, be in a position to help people, even more than we are now.

Please support raising the Medicaid income limit.