**Testimony for SB 562 from Anthony D**

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

My name is Anthony. I am diagnosed with Schizoaffective Disorder. I was first diagnosed in 1986. Since that time I have been hospitalized many times. My meds include Clozaril, Seroquel, Lithium, and Prozac. I was ultimately disabled in 2006. I was granted SSDI in November of 2006. With SSDI I do not become eligible for Medicare until November of 2008. I am not eligible for Medicaid. My meds are very expensive, about $850 per month. I need health insurance to pay for my meds. I have private health insurance to pay for my meds and to pay for hospitalization in the event I am hospitalized. The cost of this insurance is $726 per month. This is a huge strain on my budget. It would make better sense for people on SSDI to become eligible for Medicare as soon as they become disabled rather than have to wait two years. It stands to reason that people who are disabled need health insurance most. Disabled people should become eligible for Medicare as soon as they are disabled.

Sincerely,

Anthony D.

Gilead Rehab Center

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