

**Testimony for Human Services Committee**

**SB 562**

**Duke Ugolik**

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My story about being on spenddown is pretty typical. I have schizoaffective disorder and high blood pressure. The schizoaffective disorder requires me to take three different medications; a mood stabilizer – Lithium, an antidepressant – Prozac, and a medication for anxiety and psychosis – Zyprexa. I got a letter in the mail saying that I had received too much income and needed to spend down to a certain income level before my insurance would be reinstated. This meant that that month's Zyprexa for my schizophrenia at \$ 461.99, Lithium for my bipolar disorder at \$59.59, Prozac for my depression at \$282.99, and Lisinopril for my high blood pressure at \$16.69, had a total cost to me of \$821.26. This was particularly hard for me not only financially, but also emotionally. The added stress involved in keeping track of my medication expenses and reporting those expenses to the Department of Social Services was particularly heavy since, in addition to all of my other problems, I also have Acquired Brain Injury from my eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth operations performed when I nine.

Fortunately for me, one month settled the spenddown for me, and the following month, my insurance was active again - - - until the next spenddown. I was one of the lucky ones. Other speakers you'll hear from later weren't so lucky.