

**Testimony for the Human Services Committee**  
**March 4, 2008**  
**Support – SB 562**

I write to you today in support of SB 562. Having been a professional, I still have savings and IRAs, though my income is half of the limit for energy assistance, for example. I carefully husband my savings in hopes of keeping my home in good repair and not having to depend on my only living child for assistance down the road. I spend nearly 30% of my income on Medicare co-pays and a supplement policy because I have many chronic illnesses. It would be worse did I not have so many sympathetic doctors who give me sample medications. I am disabled, not quite elderly yet.

Therefore, I do not qualify for Medicaid other than ConnPACE, which fortunately does not have an asset limit—I testified about that too. Still, as a former medical social worker and later mental health counselor/manager, I know how hard it is for those without that background and a frugal nature.

Please support this bill, so that people who have physical and mental disabilities and the elderly living on extremely limited income are able to access the health care services that they desperately need. I strongly believe, having seen it in my practice, that prevention is much more cost-effective than treatment.

Thank you.

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