

Testimony for SB562 from Elizabeth Markowitz, Norwich, CT

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

I am presently on a \$5,990.00 spend-down. Since I've been on the spend-down I have lost my Medicare. I used to make \$653.00 on SSD, now I only make \$593.00 per month. Out of this I have to pay \$316.00 for rent, electric, phone, food and personal needs out of the \$200. Or so I have left. I am not getting by. Often times I have to utilize food banks and am a month behind in rent. I have co-pays on my medication and I have often had to borrow money to get my meds. Some I just can't afford to pay for.

Please lower the qualification standards so that I may have a decent quality of life, because as it is I am deep in depression and have thought of ending my life.

Thank you for this opportunity to tell my story.