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Years ago, I had a Super Future in front of me and I was so happy. However, in an instant, I became disabled.

My whole life suddenly changed. I moved into elderly, disabled, housing on a cold, wet slab in Preston, CT.

Sadly, I was forced to stay there for 2 1/2 years as arthritis burned itself into my entire body.

Most people don't know that if you are subsidized and especially if you are under 62, that you must wait on long waiting lists to get in and out of subsidized housing.

I finally ended up in another subsidized apartment building, only to be sickened daily by all the second-hand smoke coming into my apartment. A year and a half later, I transferred across the hall where I thought it would be better. Unknowingly though, I entered into an apartment which caused pain and shortness of breath. It has not been determined what I am inhaling.

Desperate to save my lungs, I started to look on the outside for \$500.00/month apartments which were only full of more health problems.

I currently live in my car half of the time and sleep in the hall of my building 3 or 4 hours a night.

The bottom line is, if you are a disabled, low-income person who is in a medical emergency due to your apartment, what are your options? If your family and friends can't help you and all state agencies send you in circles, and there is no immediate transferring out of your apartment, what can you do?

Even HUD told me that we are people of the gap, left to fall off with no way out.

Inhumanely, we are left to suffer and die in our apartments and that's what's happening to me now.

If protective legislation passes to allow subsidized people a way out, countless lives will be saved.