

I am Claude Holcomb, I live at 2 Park Place Apartment 4-F in Hartford. I am here to talk about Senate Bill 246,"An Act Concerning a Commission on the Federal Stimulus Distribution."

Connecticut is going to get 1.3 billion dollars in Medicaid money from the federal government in the form of enhanced Medicaid matching funds. I am here to ask you to make sure that this money is used for Connecticut residents who obtain medical services through Medicaid. I know that Connecticut has budget problems now, but our poor citizens need the assurance that their medical needs will continue to be met.

I understand that there have been suggestions to cut some services that are currently covered by Medicaid in Connecticut, like preventive eye care and dental care. This would be devastating to many people. I, for example, recently learned that I have glaucoma, a serious eye disorder that may lead to blindness if I don't get regular exams and care from the eye doctor. I have severe disabilities already and don't need to be blind on top of it. And if people don't have access to regular dental care, they will have pain and mouth infections that can lead to poor nutrition because they can't chew and jaw infections and heart disease from migrating bacteria. This will lead to more medical expenses for Connecticut for doctor and hospital bills.

These are only two examples of Medicaid programs that we need to preserve for our poor Connecticut citizens. Whenever cuts are proposed, the poor get injured the most. Please don't attack the health of the poor in Connecticut. Use all the money for our healthcare needs.

Thank you.