

Mitchell, Michael F

From: Dbf514@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Mitchell, Michael F
Subject: Letter to Governor Rell

Dear Governor Rell,

My name is Debra Finn and I live at 58 Rainbow Court in Hamden, CT and I am 56 years old. I have been suffering for the last 2 years with back pain. I have dealt with the bureaucracy of trying to get my life back through the medical system. It took 1 1/2 years to even be diagnosed. I have been given more injections than I can remember, continue to be on narcotics for the pain and I have waited what seems like forever. I am currently fighting Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield because they have refused to pay for a minimally invasive surgery in Arizona, even though my CT provider is an in-network provider who ordered this surgery. It is only done in 3 places in the country. Anyway, after more than 2 years, I am finally getting assistance and the Office of Healthcare Advocate is going to be at my side at my hearing next week. After all the pain I have been through over the last 2 years, including losing a job I loved, and having to go on disability, I can not believe that you are even considering closing such a valuable department.

Please reconsider closing this department. As an individual who feels like David and Golith taking on Anthem, standing alone makes it impossible to get anyone to listen to the little guy. I often wonder what happens to older citizens who have no advocate. I know last year I personally wanted to die trying to make appointments lying on the floor and never getting to talk to a person. I have come a long way and have a long way to go. Without the Office of Healthcare Advocate helping me, I don't know what I would do. The surgery was \$25,000 and in the future I expect I will need 2 disc replacements which Anthem does not pay for. They, I have been informed, are in the area of \$50-\$80,000. One of my prescriptions is \$781 per month. My Cobra will be expiring in October and I guess I will have to go on Medicare, which also does not pay for disc surgery. With the limited of resources out there who actually help people, PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE THE OFFICE OF HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE! We need them!

Sincerely,
Debra B. Finn

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