

Testimony Ruth-Ann Fraga

I am here today to ask you to not cut the funding for The Supportive Housing for Families Program. Without the help and support of this program I would not be here today. I became a client of the program a little less than a year ago, I had lost custody of my two youngest children and my two older boys were taken away from me, I was a recovering addict and had just left an abusive marriage. I found myself alone with only \$800.00 a month; I was only working part time to allow time for my recovery.

My goal was to get my children back and stay clean and sober, and one day return to school. My worker has been such a support for me. When I could not find any housing after trying for 1 ½ months I wanted to give up, but she wouldn't let me. She encouraged me to hold and that it would happen. One week later I was signing a lease for a beautiful home in Manchester. My worker encourages me to stay in my programs she helped me find services to help with food and clothing. She takes time every week to meet with me. We talk about how things are going if there is anything that I need and we also work on a monthly budget.

I will be going back to school soon but for right now I am enjoying being a mother to my two boys who have returned home to me. This program is allowing me to be a mother to my two wonderful boys who until one year ago did not know what it was like to have a mom. It's allowing me to live a life that's clean and sober and raise my children in a clean safe neighborhood.

Please consider not cutting funding for this program. There may be another mother out there that felt like me. That there was no way out of the severe emotional and physical abuse I was suffering. But with this program I found my way out. I saw the chance to become somebody, I stand here today proud of the person I have become with out this program who knows were I would have ended up.

I don't plan on having to keep this support. I want one day to stand alone and hope somebody will follow the same path I took.