

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
On the Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan
and the Impact of the Governor's Rescissions**

Good Day to our CT Legislators !

December 9, 2009

I want to begin by stating that I have hope that I will some day again stand before you with employment in the non profit sector supporting people in need. I served the CT community for four years as a client coordinator serving people in need by awarding them wheels to work to help raise hard working individuals and families to a new life of success.

The funding in this state had dwindled over the past couple of years and in April of this year my job was doomed to be ending. The heart break of hearing clients spill out their story of hardship was heartbreaking when I had no good news for them and left me empty and failing. I left a toxic work place for my well being.

I left to pursue other opportunities and reflect on how to fulfill my call to God. I have kept busy this spring, summer and fall volunteering and living off my savings with no health care benefits and relying on family love and support.

What about the people of this state who do NOT have the good resources that I have during these rough economic times? The Keep the Promise Coalition has helped me understand the sad affairs of our state and trained me as an advocate to walk with people in need with mental illness and tell legislators their story and give them a way to have a voice. Reports say that we all have mental illness and you never know what event in life might trigger a downfall as simple as a change in medication level or the death of a caregiver as has happened in my own family. My formal training as an Urban Planner helped me understand the need for good housing in CT as I served on two boards working on advocacy and development of supportive housing solutions and the AIDS/HIV community.

I pray and hope that you will find a way to keep all these good human services or it will end up costing the state many times more than the monies you are considering to cut. It might even put the state in jeopardy as in the 70's. Please do not follow the same bad path again and support good funding that will in the end save lives and livelihoods.

Thank you for your time and hard work to serve all people in the state of CT !

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