

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee**  
**March 11, 2010**  
**Please reject the Governor's March 1, 2010 Deficit Mitigation Plan**

For the record, my name is Curtis Malschner. I reside in Torrington and I am someone who lives with severe depression. I hope that my written testimony will have an impact on your upcoming decisions regarding proposals that would affect access to medications and supported housing. I have a long history, going back to 1983, of chronic lung disease which is occupational in nature. This has had an impact on my mental state over time and my ability to function in a normal capacity. However due to a lack of insurance coverage I did not seek professional help. Help arrived in 2007 when, by then living in my car, I attempted to take my life by not eating, drinking or taking medication. I was reported to the police by someone who noticed that my parked car hadn't moved in a couple of days. After a long stay in the hospital, I was relocated to a rest home in Litchfield. I was by then nearly penniless and was forced to sell my car.

It was at this time that I found out about Prime Time House in Torrington. They provided a way to get out for a few hours a day and to participate in meaningful activities. They also provided guidance and encouragement which resulted in getting an apartment and living in the community again. Without access to affordable housing, I would have had to remain in a rest home much longer. I am very grateful for all of the services that are provided to people living in difficult circumstance.

Unfortunately, I require a fairly large number of medications to function at the level that I currently maintain. As my only income at this time is SSI and I depend on Medicaid, adding a co-pay for prescriptions or limiting other medical services would hinder my ability to live at my current level or to progress. I am therefore asking you to please support those living through difficult times, and reject the Governor's March 1, 2010 Deficit Mitigation Plan. I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration.