

TESTIMONY before the Appropriations Committee
2/18/10
Barbara Albert

Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee, also to everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, renter in Hartford, registered voter, advocate for Human Rights, and multiply medically challenged, some visible, most not. I'm on Social Security Disability, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Mental illnesses don't go away because it's a holiday, or weekend, or a snow day. Post traumatic stress symptoms haven't subsided either. I don't know why the 'biological vessel from which I emerged', decided taking my virginity away before I was even out of diapers, (allegedly), was an acceptable thing to do. For this little person, this was literally shattering. Inappropriate stuff happened until I was chronologically older, and physically able to get away.

Last year there was a bill in the Judiciary Committee having to do with this. I submitted testimony suggesting that the perpetrator/offender be held financially responsible for whatever it took to help their victim(s). I was too scared to read it. The bill's language got changed, and unfortunately, died in Committee. This year, I was told the Judiciary Committee, said "it would cost too much."

Cost to this victim? I wanted to be dead before I was twenty. I had yet to realize why I am always so angry. Over forty psych/rehab hospitalizations. I still feel like I'm taking up someone else's space, breathing someone else's air. I'm still pushing people away. Most siblings don't want anything to do with me. I refused to pass on my genes and D.N.A. into any innocent human being. I'm 'gainfully unemployable' since the mid '80s because my body doesn't know how to cope anymore. It's like parts of me have taken over where the perpetrator left off. I still have nightmares in the daytime. I still have no qualified therapist. I still have to make do without. We all will never know what could have been because 'original me' was murdered. I might look 'ok', when I'm so not.

I don't know how many times I've testified at the Legislative Office Building. I still don't trust that what I say makes any difference, but I hope I've demonstrated why safe, affordable housing and community mental health services are critically important – for my own wellbeing and for others in CT.

Thank you for listening.