

Testimony for Public Hearing  
Appropriations Committee  
February 18, 2010

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Good Evening Appropriations Committee Members. My name is Jennifer Henry and I am an Advocacy Unlimited advocate and employee. I am here today to ask you to please increase the budget for DMHAS.

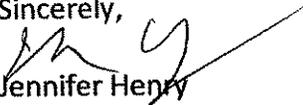
It is important we increase the budget for DMHAS. Without funding for DMHAS many of our Connecticut residents will suffer. The programs funded by DMHAS save lives everyday. I am a recipient of DMHAS funded programs and because of it my life has changed from being a statistic to becoming an independent survivor. This was the difference between being institutionalized and being a productive resident in the community.

I was hospitalized and discharged to a shelter in 2007. I had to work hard to achieve the goals I set for myself to reside in the community without much supports and only the hope I had for myself to have a better life. With the help of DMHAS funded programs and people who believed in me along the way I achieved much. I now have my own apartment. I am an employee of a DMHAS funded agency. I am attending college. I am grateful for the opportunities I had because of the allocated budget DMHAS provides to its programs.

It is necessary to increase the help that DMHAS gets which helps people in the community everyday. I am only one testimony, but there are many people out there who need a chance. They need assistance to be able to live and survive in their communities. DMHAS programs give hope to those who have no hope, aid to those who are in need of aid, and a foundation to transform their lives to live the best lives they want to live.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Henry