

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

March 11, 2010

Greetings All:

I ask you Appropriations Committee, to please reject the Governor's March 1, 2010 Deficit Mitigation Plan and support access to medications, mental health services and housing. The proposed cuts to these services would cause great harm.

Where would I be without Keep the Promise, Chrysalis Center, the Friend to Friend program, my Doctors, my medications, and Shepherd Park? I ask myself that every time I come to testify. Where would I be without my conservator and my housekeeper? I would be a lot lonelier. I would be a lot less organized. I would be a lot less productive. I would have no home and hardly any friends. I wouldn't be able to sing, to advocate, to even care for or help others like now. I wouldn't be able to write, to work on my computer, to take care of myself, to have stuffed animals, a little piano. I wouldn't be fulfilled or strong or happy. I wouldn't smile—I'd have rotten teeth.

But this threat is not just a threat to me. The harm done might be even more serious in many of my fellow advocates and consumers' cases.

I saw Jodi Rell on television lately exclaiming how important Help Dogs were. I don't think she is still aware that people are more important to us.

Without families or jobs or children we still have to be considered. We still deserve to have our lives back.

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March 11, 2010