

Testimony before the Appropriation Committee
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Michele Delane

Medical costs can KILL ME

My name is Michele Marie Dalene, I want to address to you the concerns in regards to Medicaid cuts to people whom are on fixed incomes.

Everyone wants to save money. However, the choices that the State of Connecticut wants us on disability to do is a false economy as the supposed savings can result in costs more than what was expected to be saved.

In my case, for example, I am on Social Security Disability. I receive \$1,134 monthly. My rental costs include \$263 for my Section 8 housing choice voucher rent, \$90 Mandatory CL&P Electric service. After you subtract extra costs such as Telephone, Satellite service and Internet, I have approximately \$300 a month left over for clothing, food and recreation costs.

I have to pay \$6.20 monthly for my AARP Preferred RX plan, plus \$10 monthly for my refills on Genfibrasil, Sinvastatin and Synthroid.

Just recently in late February, my DSS worker informed me that I was now on a Medicaid spenddown for \$2098.68 before I can get my doctors visits to my therapist and General Practitioner covered again. My monthly medical expenses will balloon to an excess of \$200 monthly, leaving my discretionary spending to less than \$120 per month.

With the significant cuts to my food stamps from \$179 monthly to \$48, this would force me to have to decide between medical care or food. My thyroid has quit working and without the Synthroid, I could end up in very serious medical trouble. Without my psychiatric therapy, my mental health would also be seriously impacted, resulting in more calls to Crisis and possible hospital stays for either my Thyroid or my mental health issues. With no way to pay the hospital, I would end up bankrupt and destitute.

Please protect access to medications, Medicaid, and mental health services.