

Good Afternoon,

My name is Susan Maxwell and I've been a member at the Independence Center/Mental Health Association of Connecticut in Waterbury for 20 years. I've been taking brand name Clozaril for 16 years. I'm concerned about changing the clozaril from brand name to generic. I know with me that if you change my brand name clozaril to generic I get psychotic. I have tried generic Clozaril before and it didn't work for me as I got psychotic and started having hallucinations and hearing voices. I was hospitalized for 2 weeks and out of work for three months. I attended the day program for 3 months. This was a major ordeal for me and my family to go through. To be doing well, and all of a sudden, to be thrown back into my illness. Now I am doing well, and if you change the brand name Clozaril to Clozapine, I will get sick and end up in the

hospital. I don't want this to happen to me or anyone else. I know there are a lot of budget cuts in all aspects in Connecticut but adding co-pays and changing our medications around will only cost more in the long run because there will be more and longer hospitalizations. For myself I've been working at Macys in Waterbury for over 5 1/2 years. If the medication part D starts changing my medication around I won't be able to work which will be a big setback in my recovery. I have worked very hard to be where I am today. Please don't change the brand name Clozaril to generic. This issue is a medical necessity-for me and many others.

I urge you to please pass HB 5296 with the amendments proposed by the Medical Inefficiency Committee, to improve efficiency while protecting 450,000 vulnerable Medicaid enrollees, as an alternative to DSS's proposed

harmful definition taken from the restrictive SAGA
program.

Thank you for NOT cutting mental health services so far
despite the recommendations that have been made..

Susan Maxwell