

**Susan Maxwell
Waterbury, CT**

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
Re: DSS Budget
March 4, 2011**

Good evening chairs and members of the committee. My name is Susan Maxwell and I am a leadership council member at the Independence Center in Waterbury. I am testifying today about the proposed increase for Medicaid Part D co-pays. Many mental health consumers, including myself, live on fixed incomes already. If we have to pay more for medications, it would really affect our budgets. As it is, many consumers have little to no spending money, and it is a daily struggle for many to survive.

If people can't afford their medications, they will eventually end up sick and in hospitals which will cost more in the long run. It seems like people who are poor and disabled are the ones most harmed in any budget decisions.

Please remember those people who are disabled when you consider the DSS budget.

Thank you for your time.