Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
March 4, 2011
DSS Budget

Good evening chairs and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is William Schmidt, and I live in Branford and am a volunteer at Harbor Health Services. I am here today to express my gratitude toward the state of Connecticut for all of the benefits I have received over the years since 1992. I am mostly thankful for taking the right medications at the right amounts, rental assistance, and I am extremely thankful for Harbor Health Services. I like to volunteer at the social center and I attend many meetings and groups there.

The best part of the benefits is being able to be out of the hospital for many years. My success is taking the medications, working with the professionals, and the 12 steps as the keys to freedom. For ten years, I was in a revolving door of relapse. I have not been hospitalized in eight years.

If people do what I'm doing there will be less need for meds and it enables you to have a better, healthier social life. Through rental assistance and services, I now live in my own apartment through Harbor Health.

Three years ago, I won the volunteer of the year award at Options at Harbor Health. I volunteer daily during the week for Options. The benefits have not only helped me but have also helped others in the community to want to move forward.

Please continue benefits for all to support them to continue their mental health recovery. I am here today to support the Governor in protecting services.

Thank you.

William Schmidt

Branford, CT