Testimony for Raised Bill # 6323 - February 14, 2011

Good Day to both the Committee's on Public Health and Human Services and also to all of our honorable legislators:

H.B. No. 6323 (RAISED) AN ACT MAKING CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE INSURANCE STATUTES PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, AND ESTABLISHING A STATE HEALTH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM. To make conforming and technical changes to the general statutes pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), to authorize the Insurance Department to enforce provisions of the PPACA and to establish a Connecticut Health Partnership exchange pursuant to the PPACA.

Thank you for listening to our voices and YES to this new act for good legislation.
My name is Jody Wynn Rodiger and this is my story. I am a women of great faith, a social justice advocate and serve to my ability on the Ryan White Planning Council. At this time I am disabled relying on the grace of God for my survival. I worked full time for about 30 years paying good money into a healthcare system that is broken. I did not become disabled overnight and I have been trying to overcome my suffering until I had to take everything off my plate and find a way to heal.

Five years ago I started talking to my dr about my knees bothering me and considerable pain. His response was to go out and walk and loose some weight. I did just that however there was more and more increasing pain and when he gave me the same response the next year and I responded that I wanted to see an orthopedic he did not listen. As I walked and swam I could feel my left knee buckling and failing me. I searched for a new dr but by the time I found a new dr patiently on a waiting list I had to leave my job because of the overwhelming pain and suffering. After going thru savings and retirement money I then ended up on public assistance almost a year ago.

But thanx to my good legislators in Manchester who guided me to a good sports doctor and a physical therapist who was trained in a new therapy in CT, that had just become available, I finally started my road to recovery. Today I still suffer but now I know that my knees are in horrible, horrible, horrible condition, the words of my UCONN Orthopedic. The left knee will be replaced next week with a new knee cap. The left knee is bone on bone and can not stand straight effecting my foot and ankle and right hip. I also suffer with Lymphedema which is an auto immune syndrome with many complications that is becoming a stealth epidemic in both cancer survivors and others, such as myself, overcoming chronic health conditions. I believe in being proactive, I eat healthy, I exercise and do my best in this toxic world we all live in. This could have been avoided with 1 referral to an orthopedic dr 4 years ago.

You see this is good news for all of us who have been advocating for serving people in real need, creating healthy housing and services while at the same time lowering costs, including rising medical costs, for our state and communities. I have served on many boards for the health and welfare of people in need of assistance. The cost of services for all communities and all residents must be realigned and this is a good first step ! Last year I stood here as I was starting to be filled with Great Hope! This year I see the hope being fulfilled that others will not have to endure such pain.

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