

TESTIMONY OF RYAN LOOSEMORE

My name is Ryan Loosemore, and I live in Middletown, Connecticut. If it weren't for the Connecticut Fair Housing Center I would not be able to live independently.

I suffered a devastating accident when I was 16 years old and since then I have been confined to a wheelchair as a quadriplegic. After my accident I lived in a nursing home for many years because I was unable to live on my own. My family helped me transition to an apartment so I could live as independently as possible. It is very important to me to live on my own and have as full a life as is possible.

In September 2011, I contacted the Connecticut Fair Housing Center because I had received a letter from the D'Amelia Program at the West Hartford Housing Authority, which administers my Rental Assistance Program (RAP) housing voucher. This letter said that they were going to terminate my RAP voucher because my brother was living with me and I had violated the rules of their program by having an unauthorized occupant. I called the Connecticut Fair Housing Center because they had helped me with another matter in the past. They investigated my case and wrote to the D'Amelia Program to appeal the termination notice.

In October 2011, I received a letter from my landlord saying that if I didn't leave my apartment in Middletown they would evict me because I had an unauthorized person living with me. They also said that the person they thought was living with me was causing problems at the apartment complex. To avoid further problems, I decided to move to another apartment in January 2012.

Even though I moved into another apartment I still faced the possibility of losing my RAP voucher. The CT Fair Housing Center was able to find extensive documentation that proved that no one lived with me and that I had never violated any of the rules of the RAP

program. They gave this information to the D'Amelia Program who promptly reversed their decision to terminate my rental assistance.

Without the assistance of the CT Fair Housing Center I would not have been able to continue to live independently. I would have ended up back in a nursing home which would have cost the state a lot of money. I think living in a nursing home would have been a death sentence for me because my independence is very valuable to me.