

**Testimony of Sandra Monroe**  
**Health and Hospitals Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee**  
**February 22, 2012**

Good evening honorable senators and representatives, my name is Sandra Monroe. My address is 51-53 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 1-F, in Norwich, Connecticut.

I am a person in recovery and I am here tonight to testify about the budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I want the budget to include money for Connecticut Legal Rights Project to protect and save people's housing.

I received a notice last summer from Thames Valley Council for Community Action- TVCCA - my housing authority, that I was going to lose my housing assistance if I didn't sign a repayment plan. They wanted me to repay \$2500.00 - twenty five hundred dollars - that I did not owe.

Susan Aranoff- an attorney from Connecticut Legal Rights Project- filed an appeal on my behalf and we won. I don't have to repay the money and I am keeping my rental assistance.

Without this rental assistance- I would be homeless. I've been homeless before – and I have put my life back together. I am clean and sober and taking classes to improve my reading. I am working and hope to work more.

I know what it's like to be homeless and I was terrified that without my rental assistance- I would lose my housing. I need housing to continue my recovery. Without CLRP, I probably would have lost my housing assistance.

This was not the first time I had a problem with TVCCA- I am worried that if I have another problem— and CLRP is not there to help me- I will lose my housing. Please make sure CLRP has the money it needs to provide legal help for people like me—who might be homeless without their help.