

**Testimony of Nicolo Parco-Zuliani**  
**Health and Hospitals Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee**  
**February 22, 2012**

Good evening honorable senators and representatives, my name is Nicolo Parco-Zuliani and my address is Washington St. in Norwich.

I am nearly seventy and have lived in the same basement apartment for nearly 20 years. Two years ago, Thames Valley Council for Community Action- TVCCA - my housing authority TVCCA terminated my rental assistance because I broke a program rule when I let a homeless woman stay with me for 2 years.

Connecticut Legal Rights filed an appeal- and another appeal and another appeal- and finally after 2 years of appeals, I was able to get my rental assistance back as a reasonable accommodation.

I have multiple physical and mental disabilities 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 found Connecticut Legal Rights Project through Southeast Mental Health Authority. Together they worked to assure that I would not become homeless while I waited for the results of my appeals. We had 4 hearings and we finally won. My rental assistance was just restored and should be in place for March rent.

Without CLRP, I don't think I ever would have been able to get my rental assistance back. I know what it's like to be homeless and I know it's hard—for someone like me with disabilities- and a family—it's really hard!

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 will be homeless without their help.