

TESTIMONY FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 22, 2012

Deborah Poirier
InterCommunity, Inc.

Opposing

H.B. No. 5014 AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013 (DMHAS)

Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Deborah Poirier and I am part of Common Ground Clubhouse.

The restructuring of the Husky D Plan is scary to me. It will be less helpful to those most in need. How will limiting doctor appointments and putting caps on these appointments improve the health of the public? For people who are already struggling to survive this will be just another challenge. People will be walking around sick and in discomfort without receiving the treatment they need, spreading germs and potentially infecting the public. It is common knowledge a visit to the Emergency Room would cost far more money.

Having dollar caps on all medical equipment other than wheelchairs is a bad idea. If someone can't afford a walker or oxygen their quality of life would severely diminish and most certainly lead to hospitalization or a higher level of care therefore once again costing more money and decreasing their independence putting more demands on state assistance.

Overall this plan will be ineffective to one of the most vulnerable populations in society. I truly wonder if the shoe was on the other foot one day of those who developed this plan how they would feel.

Thank you for your time.

Debbie P