Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
February 22, 2012
In opposition to HB 5014-DMHAS Budget Cuts
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Good evening Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am J-son O. Jefferson, president of the Second Wind Clubhouse in Enfield, CT.

Today I am here to tell you why the government should not cut DMHAS's budget. There are two reasons why I think the government should not cut DMHAS budget: 1) because it can increase unemployment and 2) it might increase crime. I believe it can increase unemployment for this reason: if government cuts DMHAS's budget enough DMHAS might have to eliminate a job position and thus it may force people to seek new careers. It may increase crime because it might eliminate the help consumers need for their recovery which might cause them to act out and get in trouble with the law.

This evening I would like to close by saying that it is imperative that DMHAS's budget is not cut because it can affect the employment of mental health care providers. It can also make our future look grim by the increase of crime due to consumers acting out because their mental health needs are not being met by way of government cuts to DMHAS's budget. Please carefully consider these words. Thank you.