

**Testimony before the Appropriations and Human Services Committees**

**July 24, 2012**

**In opposition to the Medicaid Low Income Waiver - 1115**

**Peter McMahon**

Good Morning/afternoon Members of Appropriations and Human Services Committee and guests,

My name is Peter McMahon and I am here today because I believe implementing the Medicaid waiver for Low Income Adults is wrong and I am against it. I have worked for 22 years, paid taxes, owned a home, and been a contributing member of society. I was laid off from my last job approximately 18 months ago and have relied on Medicaid for my health insurance since that time. I collected unemployment until approximately one month ago when my benefits were exhausted. I recently received a letter from Department of Social Services stating that I am over income for Medicaid and need to be on a "spend down". I am very confused as to how I can be over income when I have no income. I have attempted on numerous occasions to contact my worker "V. Powell" who I am not sure even exists because of the amount of phone shuffling I have experienced.

If this waiver is implemented, the system that already has failed as a result of both decreased staffing and incompetence will further ruin lives of our states most vulnerable citizens. In addition, the workers in the state who have (like me) worked hard their entire lives and find themselves in a financial predicament as a result of the economic downturn in Connecticut will suffer as will their children as they age.

Life is very difficult for me right now without the added stress of having to deal with DSS and their unavailable and incompetent workers. I have as I stated previously, worked hard my entire life, paying into a system that has failed me when I needed it. My home is being foreclosed on, I have filed bankruptcy, and every day it gets harder and harder to survive. I have no idea where I will even live next month and then the icing on the cake is that my Medicaid is cut off because my household assets are too great. The letter they sent is not even clear. In one sentence it states I am ineligible for benefits. The next sentence says that during 6/2012-9/2012 I will be eligible. If this does not demonstrate that the staff at Department of Social Services is overwhelmed and flawed, what will?

**Testimony before the Appropriations and Human Services Committees  
Joint Public Hearing**

**July 24, 2012**

**Opposing Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application for Medicaid Low-Income Adult (LIA)  
Coverage**

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committees. My name is Ron Harney and I am a resident of Stamford, CT. I am an unemployed recipient of HUSKY-D services (also known as the Medicaid Low-Income Adult Program) and have some money in the bank saved from when I was working.

Right now, the Medicaid Low-Income Adult Program is vital to my medical care and prescription coverage, because without this service, I would be forced to use up what little saving I do have, which I need to use for rent and bill payments until I get a job again.

I am on HUSKY-D because I am HIV positive and also have mental issues with anxiety and depression. Without HUSKY-D, I do not know if there is any other insurance available to me that would cover my extensive medical office visits and prescription bills. Private insurance is not an option for me while I am unemployed, and for the time being, I must rely on public assistance for my medical care.

I want to speak up against this Low-Income Adult cap that is being proposed: my assets are just above \$10,000. If the asset limit were imposed today, I would lose coverage under the Medicaid Low Income Adult program, which would leave me uninsured.

I implore you to please do not allow this measure to pass into law – it would hurt many people and cost more in the long run for recipients like me. I am sure that I speak for many others in a similar situation when I say that HUSKY-D is a life-saving service for me while I am out of work.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,



Ron Harney

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