

**Testimony of James Tomer**  
**Health and Hospitals Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee**  
**February 22, 2012**

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and members of the Committee:

My name is James Tomer and I live in Wallingford, Connecticut. I am testifying as a long time client of CLRP. They have helped me get and keep services that I have to have to live a normal life here in Connecticut. I have been through some awful times when I couldn't get services that I really needed. CLRP has always come through for me, and they are doing that again right now. If I couldn't have their services, I don't know where I would be. I know that I would have wound up in the ER just before Christmas when I couldn't get the medication I needed from my psychiatric provider. I need people to help me, because I have a lot of disabilities and can't get this help for myself. I am trying to learn how to help myself, but I am not a lawyer. So, when I need legal help, which seems to be a lot of the time, I go to CLRP for that help. They are always there for me, and they don't mess around. They work hard and never give up when my rights are being violated by someone. I would be lost without them, because I can't afford a lawyer, and my Mom can't afford one either. I would feel very alone in the world if I didn't have my Mom and CLRP to get people to do what they are supposed to do. It's very sad that I have to get help a lot of the time, but there are people out there who do not want to take very good care of me, and they don't respect my rights as a human being or a person with disabilities.

I really need CLRP's help. I need it a lot. Please don't cut back their funding. If you do, then I may not be able to get the help I need. And if I can't get help, then other people like me may not be able to get help either. That would be very wrong and very, very sad.

Thank you for letting me testify.