

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
February 22, 2012
Barbara Albert
In opposition to DMHAS Budget cuts - HB 5014

Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee, also everyone else. My name is Barbara Albert, registered voter, renter in Hartford, Advocate for Human Rights, and multiply medically challenged, including mental illnesses Human Being. I am on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security Disability. I was employed before my illnesses became too much. I do volunteer work when able.

According to the 2010 Census, Hartford has the highest poverty ratings in CT. I am one of 100 million people in our country, living under, or hovering at Federal Poverty Level making due without, time for change. Been time!

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Injustice everywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

I oppose cuts in House Bill 5014.

I have found support and advice from Greater Hartford Legal Aide and CT Legal Rights Project (CLRP). CLRP is the reason I am not homeless. I am also still receiving advice and access to pre-applications when available for rental assistance vouchers. I am concerned about being out-priced of 16 ½ years of integrated renting and no longer have internet access at the local community center. I was able to access all kinds of information, and do all kinds of advocacy. I was doing advocacy before I even knew the word. I didn't find out about being a member of "Husky C" until the end of January 2012. Apparently it started at the beginning of the month. I called customer service with questions. I received no answers. None of my many doctors accepts Medicaid. They used to, but never got paid. How many more times will people of all kinds of human suffering, like illnesses, poverty, homelessness, and lack of access to quality healthcare, no matter what age, etc., How much more will we be able to recover the pieces of ourselves that existing and making due without takes?

Thank you for listening.