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

My name is Deborah Gage and I am here this morning to testify against the implementation of the Medicaid Waiver for Low Income Adults. I am currently on Medicaid and am on a 'Spend down". I am unable to get in touch with my caseworker at the Department of Social Services. This past November, I was cut off of my benefits because DSS claimed that my redetermination paperwork was not completed. However, my conservator completed the necessary forms. DSS claims that someone in my household is over income and there is only me in my house. Nothing has changed.

The Department of Social Services is already overwhelmed with processing paperwork and new applications. The people of CT are suffering because they cannot keep up with the caseloads they are assigned. To impose more eligibility criteria would burden DSS and make it even more dysfunctional that it already is (if that's possible). Please think about the people who are affected by this decision. I beg you to vote against the implementation of this waiver so that more people will not lose the benefits that they need to survive.