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.

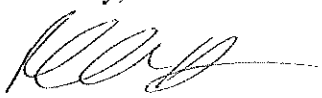
I am on HUSKY-D because I am HIV positive and also have mental issues with anxiety and depression. Without HUSKY-D, I do not know if there is any other insurance available to me that would cover my extensive medical office visits and prescription bills. Private insurance is not an option for me while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



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