

**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?