

**Testimony of Gladys Torres**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**February 15, 2013**

Good evening honorable senators and representatives, my name is Gladys Torres and I live in New London.

I am a person in with many disabilities and I am here tonight to testify about the budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I want the budget to include money for Connecticut Legal Rights Project to protect and save people's housing.

I receive housing assistance and the apartment I lived in had so many problems- it was in abatement and HUD stopped paying the rent. Even though I kept paying my part, the landlord tried to evict me. If I was evicted, I probably would have lost my housing assistance.

CLRP represented me in Court and because of them, my eviction case is being dismissed and I am moving to a better apartment. I didn't know my rights and when CLRP got involved they saw that my rights had been violated and are getting my case dismissed.

Because of the help I received from CLRP and TVCCA, I am moving to a safe clean apartment in a much safer neighborhood Without CLRP, I probably would have been evicted- which would have made me lose my housing assistance.

I am worried that if I have another problem—and CLRP is not there to help me- I will lose my housing. Please make sure CLRP has the money it needs to provide legal help for people like me—who might be homeless without their help.