

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
2.15.13**

**Regarding:
HB 6350: An Act Concerning the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015, and Other
Provisions Relating to Revenue
Health and Hospitals-DMHAS**

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the committee:

My name is Charles Santenello. I am currently in an inpatient program which focuses on treating my addiction as well as curving my bad attitude and questionable behaviors. Help Incorporated is a life saving device for people going through similar struggles that I have encountered over the years. It is my belief that without a program like this being available my chances of survival are slim to none. Without this opportunity at hand I would most likely be dead or at best in prison. This life that I have recently found would not be possible without the tools or guidance that I have been blessed with to which I am truly grateful. My life now has a profound meaning and hope that I look forward to everyday. Most addicts tend to lose sight of the small things in life. I can now look forward to being a positive productive member of society that I thought I could never be.

In my heart I feel that without safe havens like Help Incorporated people would never get the opportunity to turn their lives around. There are millions of people suffering from this disease. It is truly a battle that is a lost cause without a program and support. I hope that you can find it in your heart to keep services funded. So other people who suffer from addiction and mental health can get the same chance at life that I have been granted.