

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee  
February 15, 2013**

My name is Viki Coon. Thank you Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and members and the committee for hearing my statement this evening.

I do not feel that cuts to research for the Connecticut Mental Health Center will serve our citizens well. Without the research being done today, new medications and therapies to help control symptoms would not be available. Myself, a recovering addict, cannot take any of the habit-forming, narcotic medications for my own illness. Had it not been for mental health research in years past, the medication I take would not be available today.

Imagine, if you can, a cure for some of the worst mental illnesses that people suffer today bi-polar, schizo-affective, major depression, to name a few. Myself, I would love to be cured of my major depression, be able to go off of Medicare, Medicaid, medication, and SSDI and once again maintain the ability to hold a 40 hour a week job, thereby saving taxpayers money. With research, perhaps one day this will be possible for me and millions of others.