

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

I, Angelique Lewis, thank you Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and members of the committee for listening this evening. I'm here to talk about my support for increased funding for home health, and community-based organizations.

I'm a member of Prime Time House, in Torrington, and also a patient of the Visiting Nurse Association and these two organizations I use simultaneously. Without these organizations, I could not stay physically and mentally healthy. I thank you for the community based funding and with the help from Prime Time House, I'm able to be here this evening.

Dealing with this clubhouse I've been given a chance to go back to school and to research other sources in the community whose services I might need. Visiting Nurse comes in my home and helps me with therapy and all this is happening because of the continued increases of the budget funding.

This week, for instance, there was a problem with my insurance which I receive through DSS and between Prime Time House and State Representative, Michelle Cook, my insurance was reinstated. This was all because of our community based programs.

I was really worried when addiction services and behavioral health merged, but I see for myself how things have worked out rather well. Without this funding there would definitely be crises and this funding for Human Services such as Health Homes & Community-based services has warded this off somewhat.

Thanks for thinking about those of us out there in need. Every day the clubhouse is a meeting place for us with mental & physical disabilities. We converse, we laugh, we love, we thank you for being there for us. Again, thank you, members of the committee.

~Angelique Lewis