
Appropriations for Human Services Testimony
Public Hearing- February 22nd, 2013
Respectfully Submitted By: Tabitha Wolchesky, BSW student

Good evening members of the committee. My name is Tabitha Wolchesky and I am currently a Social Work student in Eastern Connecticut State University expected to graduate this may. I am unable to attend the hearing this evening at 5pm on the 22nd of February due to work. I would like to express my thoughts as not only a social work student getting ready to start my career in the field, but as a tax payer/voter and recipient of the HUSKY A program.

I fully support with great enthusiasm SB's 851 and 852 because this will allow for Connecticut's aging population to remain in the communities where they are well supported and comfortable. SB 851 would allow the spouse of an institutionalized Medicaid recipient to increase the number of assets that he/she may keep, which would help them stay out of poverty and give them the opportunity to stay in their homes and increase their independence they worked so hard for. SB 852 would allow DSS to identify nursing homes who are in jeopardy of going under so they could remove eligible residents and place them in a communities of their choice and closer to where their families and support systems are. This allowing them the full support and releasing the hardship of the family of travel to visit the individual in a nursing home; allowing for vital well-being and independence to those Connecticut's aging population and families.

I understand that this years' budget means that difficult decisions need to be made, but I also recognize that some of the cuts that are being proposed will hurt populations of people that social workers help every day. One of these cuts has to do with the HUSKY A insurance plan, which would affect parents whose income is between 133 and 185% of the Federal Poverty Line. According to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, this cut would cut health insurance for nearly 30,000 parents across the state of Connecticut. The HUSKY A insurance plan is an instrumental part of the lives of many struggling parents, and although the children would be allowed to keep their insurance, we know that a parent who is worried about how they are going to get health insurance cannot be 100% effective in raising their child. These cuts will not only negatively impact parents but also tens of thousands of children who deserve nothing less than the best.

I am a HUSKY A recipient as well as my three children. This insurance plan has allowed for the mental health and stability for my youngest child to improve greatly for at one point she was suicidal due to early onset of depression due to school bulling. I myself am TYPE II diabetic insulin dependent. Without my insulin I am unable to control my diabetes. At one point in time we did not have health care coverage and I was diagnosed with Keto-acidosis and was admitted to ICU on an insulin drip. This condition could have been detrimental to my children's future. The cuts to the HUSKY A program would not only affect my health and my children's future. The financial hardship of being put on the Health Insurance Exchange would be as detrimental as not having health care coverage.

As social workers, it is our responsibility to keep the most vulnerable populations feeling empowered so I respectfully asks the committee to vote SBs 851 and 852 favorably out of

committee. I also ask that you oppose the proposed cuts to the HUSKY A insurance plan, which helps create bright futures for so many of Connecticut's children.

Thank you very much for your time.