

**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 John Clayton Cook. I sit before you to bare witness I am diagnosed with two chronic and progressive diseases. One is addiction, the other, manic depression. To me and to those who suffer similar ailments the necessity for maintaining qualified treatment facilities is dire. The stakes are enormous. The outcome will determine the fates of countless lives. Allow me to be more specific. I must publicly declare that my very existence is possibly because of the states benevolence. I am filled with unbounded gratitude to the valiant efforts of psychiatrist, doctors, clinicians, diagnosticians, and both inpatient and outpatient programs that have kept me alive. I only wish the same opportunities will remain available for my fellows.