

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Friday March 15, 2013

Barbara Albert, Hartford Renter

Good morning/afternoon Public Health Committee co-chairs Senator Gerratana, and Representative Johnson, also to everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, renter, registered voter in Hartford, CT. I am an Advocate for Human Rights on the Neighborhood, City, State, and National Levels. I've testified in City Hall, here in the Legislative Office Building, and in Washington D.C. I have multiple medical challenges, and am on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security Disability. I participate in several volunteer jobs, when not overwhelmed by one or more of my many medical challenges. I did work 'regular jobs' before becoming too chronically ill.

This is my testimony concerning **Raised Bill S.B. No. 895, *AN ACT CONCERNING PROCEDURES FOR SERVING PERSONS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES.***

I do understand this Raised Bill has to do with restaurants, however, what about public places like the L.O.B. cafeteria? Due to all my nutritional "restrictions", a.k.a. allergies, sensitivities, and intolerances, and reactions from them, I am unable to eat anything that is offered here, when I come here to testify and, or support others. I have searched in, and asked Doctors, Nutritionists, books, information on reputable web sites. Dietitians' have asked me, "What DO you eat?" I'm still trying to figure this out. Frustratingly, overwhelmingly, and yes, painfully. This happens everywhere I go, whether it's volunteer meetings, visiting friends, even in my own apartment, or going out to restaurants, which I just don't do, and not because I can't afford eating out. All these concerns about food, eating, and not being able to figure it out, also have my eating disorders on 'high alert'. Thankfully I'm not diabetic; however, this is yet another excuse for my insurance to say "no" concerning receiving actual, qualified help. In the "Original Medicare Beneficiaries Rights", it says, 'when a beneficiary has a severe, complicated medical condition, we are supposed to have access to a qualified specialist'.

I remember hearing that so many children have peanut allergies, peanut products aren't allowed in schools anymore. Perhaps wording in this bill could be changed to comply with the 'Reasonable Accommodations' of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The L.O.B., being a State building, its Federal Regulations is written about in Title II; however, needs to comply with all the non-discriminatory codes of Federal Regulation under Title III.

I believe that posting procedures are always a good thing. When it doesn't apply for everybody, it's called discrimination. Not too long ago I went to a Conference in Defense of Civil Liberties. Its name: "An Injury to One is An Injury to All". Please change the wording of Raised Bill S.B. No. 895 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Thank you for listening. Respectfully submitted by Barbara Albert