

Statement of Christopher Banks
Appropriations Committee
March 6, 2015

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Christopher Banks and I live in Danbury. **I am writing to strongly request that you restore the \$450,000 in DMHAS Legal Services funding which has been cut in Governor Dan Malloy's proposed budget.**

I am writing this statement as a client of CLRP. Late last November, just before Thanksgiving, I was served a Notice to Quit by my building- I was terrified to see that they were trying to evict me over alleged conduct of a guest of mine that was not even my doing and which I did not know was happening.

I am a hard-working man with psychological problems, and I live in low income housing. I am trying to get back on my feet while working part time and getting treatment. I have no criminal record whatsoever, and yet my landlord wanted to evict me with no warning whatsoever. I didn't know my rights- my notice to quit said I had to vacate my apartment the day before Thanksgiving, and if it wasn't for CLRP, I would have. Who knows where I would be now without the supportive housing I rely on? I know- the stress of an eviction would have left me inpatient in a psychiatric hospital or back out on the streets, homeless for the holidays.

Luckily, I found CLRP. My attorney there has worked diligently and fought hard on my behalf. Because of my attorney's work, I have been able to remain in my supportive housing. I could not be more thankful for CLRP. **Please, I beg you, do not allow these massive cuts to CLRP's funding.** They are sorely needed by me and others in my condition, who otherwise could not afford the legal help needed to protect their rights.

Thank you for giving me a chance to make this statement.