

March 4, 2015

Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Albert Powers, and I am a psychiatrist and researcher at the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC). In addition to being a psychiatry resident serving the needs of patients in the systematic treatment for early psychosis (STEP) clinic at CMHC, I am embarking on a research program meant to combine my knowledge of how the brain works with how we might develop new and innovative treatments for hallucinations. Funding to CMHC is critical not only to my current work serving patients with psychosis but to my work in developing treatments for future patients suffering from these terrible experiences.

The budget cuts proposed would result in the loss not only of psychiatrists but of an estimated 100 researchers here at CMHC, which since the 1960s has been recognized as one of the premier research institutions in the United States and in the world at large. These cuts would decimate the ability of this institution to retain its status, and in doing so, would result in the needless loss of hundreds of jobs in the biomedical sector—the very sector of the economy Connecticut so badly needs to bolster, particularly in its cities.

These facts are scary enough in the abstract, but I will make this personal. My entire family is in Connecticut. I grew up in North Branford and currently live in New Haven. As a young physician and researcher, I currently have grant proposals in the works to fund new research programs for several years, including low-level staff and opportunities to recruit highly skilled personnel to our state. However, in order to get a job at Yale and CMHC, I would need funds from the state via CMHC, and despite my roots in Connecticut, my commitment to Yale, and my dedication to my clinical work, these cuts would make it impossible for me to do that. That would mean my moving from this state, taking my wife (a talented pediatrician in her own right), and any future funds and research with me.

In sum, the proposed cuts would not only hurt the mentally ill in Connecticut, but would cripple a research institution that would bring dollars and talent to a state that badly needs it. On behalf of myself, my family, my patients, and the future of our field, I beg you to reconsider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.R. Powers III". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Albert R. Powers III, MD, PhD

Resident Physician

Yale University School of Medicine

Department of Psychiatry