

March 6, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Honorable members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Shari Brown and I live in Hartford, CT.

I would like to thank you for providing this opportunity to speak today about the impact the proposed cuts to grant funds and Medicaid rates will have for me. We need mental health services because a lot of people get sick. For me I need mental health services because I have mental health and substance abuse problems and I need the services.

The outpatient behavioral health services I received at Wheeler Clinic have helped me tremendously because of my drug and alcohol addiction and mental health problems. I received services in the (IOP) Intensive Outpatient Program at Wheeler Clinic in Hartford. I was sad and disappointed when my insurance no longer would pay for the needed mental health services for me. If these mental health services close, I will have to wait for months to get into treatment. My mental health and substance abuse addiction would most likely get worst and my mental health would deteriorate. I am trying to build trust back with my family and get my life back to where it used to be, working and being a productive part of society and being a good mother and grandmother and role model for my family. I think we should have better medical for people like me.

Please don't stop the funding for mental health and substance abuse services. We need them! I need them! I can't get well on my own.

I respectfully ask that you do all you can to stop the proposed cuts to DMHAS grants and Medicaid rates. Individual with behavioral health challenges need your help. I need your help. Thank you.

Shari Brown

31 Gillete Street

Hartford, CT 06106