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To Whom it May Concern:

I am appalled that the Honorable Governor Malloy is willing reducing the state's commitment to all its citizens with his proposed cuts to mental health spending. The state's direct cuts will be harmful enough; the multiplier effect due to the larger cut in federal funds will be devastating.

It is sad enough that Governor Malloy and other supporters of these cuts do not recognize the burden of mental illness on the individual, the families, local community and the general citizenry. It is truly appalling that those we elect to serve our broader needs support only those groups who contribute directly to these officials' political needs. The mentally ill have no politically effective voice and are marginalized by society and very specifically by the laws of State of Connecticut. These cuts are just another example.

As you consider your position on this spending reduction please take a look at the appeal process for denial of an insurance health claim compared to a home owners claim in Connecticut. The time frame to execute the former is shorter and the process much more complex. In our case it expired while we were in the middle of a very difficult period. We were fortunate enough to afford the prescribed treatment. However many are not. It is truly a shame on this great state that our elected officials ignore real needs and choose to pander to those better organized groups.

While the mental health community has no effective impact on our elected officials the insurance companies certainly do.

Respectively,

Chuck Thomas