

**Lhakpa Sherpa**  
**February 27, 2016**  
**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee concerning**  
**the Governor's Proposed Biennial 2016-2017 Budget**

Hello. I am Lhakpa Sherpa and a former Greater Hartford Legal Aid client. I came to the United States from Nepal where I was a Sherpa. I have climbed Mt. Everest 6 times and I hold the title in the World Book of Records as the first woman to climb the mountain 6 times.

I was married to a man who was physically abusive to me. I have two beautiful daughters and stayed in the abusive relationship because I thought my ex-husband would take away my daughters and I would never see them again. But I finally left him and took my girls with me. Legal Aid represented me in my divorce case and after a long trial the judge gave me sole legal custody of my daughters. This means the world to me.

Now I receive child support and I am a free woman. I am raising my girls and I am very proud of them. Legal Aid needs funding to continue helping women like me.