

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
on the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget
March 6, 2015
Roshona Chase**

Good evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Roshona Chase and I am here to testify on the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget.

I am opposed to the proposed cuts to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I am very concerned about stopping benefits for my section 8 and food stamps, upping my rent. I cannot afford to lose these benefits. I am struggling in my life with 5 children. It is hard to make my ends meet. I really need my health and well-being.

I need my mental health services to handle my bipolar disorder. I also need these services to be able to get my medication every month. I cannot afford to pay for them. I am also in recovery, trying to take it one day at a time.

I urge you to restore these harmful cuts to ensure crucial services are available to the residents of Connecticut.

Thank you for your attention to these important services and supports.