

**Testimony to the Appropriations Committee**

**February 11, 2016**

**Regarding HB 5044 AA Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year  
Ending June 30, 2017**

Today I wanted to take some time to thank the Legislature, the Governor and DCF for the Supportive Housing for Families program that is run by the Connection. I also wanted to share with you, what the program has meant to me and my family.

I am a 34 years old, single, mother of Elaine, 11 months. I became involved with DCF when St. Francis Hospital made a Care Line call and reported allegations of physical neglect with my newborn child. At that time I was using PCP but I have been sober since May 2015. Currently, I am living in Catherine's Place transitional housing and am engaged with substance abuse services. I am scheduled to move into my new apartment on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and if I continue to do well, I will be reunified with my child. If it weren't for a program like Supportive Housing for Families, I don't know where I would go. They are providing my daughter and me with a fresh start and giving me a chance to build a foundation in order to be successful living on my own. I have been working with my Case Manager to learn how to budget money and help me manage it for my new place, which I know is very important.

I know you have to make some decisions with the budget, and whichever way you decide to go, I just hope you will remember my story when it comes time to make the difficult choices you will have to make.

Thank you again for your time and hard work.

Gloria Garcia