

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Dept. of Social Services Budget

February 11, 201516

Nino Kavteladze

Catholic Charities Family Services

Empower People for Success program

PLEASE RESTORE SAFETY NET SERVICES

Safety net program is very important for our clients. We have clients who are homeless, living in shelters and some are close to evection. Our clients are trying their best to find jobs and safe housing for their families. Our program helps families to remove financial stress for time been so they can concentrate on job search and be able to secure employment. Program provides referrals/information to families about available services in the community; helps clients identify their strengths so they can navigate own path to self-sufficiency.

Cutting funding for Safety Net program is going to harm our clients and delay their self-sufficiency.

I had a client single mother of 2 who was trying her best to find a job, but because she did not have money was not able to even purchase bus pass in order to look for employment. Client was collected cans and bottles every night all year long to recycle and pay bills. After program provided some job leads and bus pass client within a week was able to secure job. Almost year has passed since and client still is employed and able to support her children.

Please do not shred the Safety Net Services Network – too many families need this service.