

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee  
Human Services Sub-Committee on DSS Budget**

**Thursday, 2/11/2016  
Barbara Albert, Hartford Renter**

Good afternoon/evening to the Appropriations Committee, also to everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, Hartford renter, registered voter, Advocate and Activist for the Disadvantaged, and Civil and Human Rights, including people with Mental Health issues. I am on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security Disability. I have multiple chronic and severe medical challenges, including mental illnesses. I did work before my illnesses became too overwhelming. Though I do volunteer work when able, I'm called 'indigent', 'unemployable', 'personae non-grata'. Being told and shown, and already knowing from society's ruthless messages, people like me, are not needed. Misconceptions, and lack of understanding, allow absolutely, no feelings of chance for hope; quality of life is out of reach. Over forty six million people in our country make do without, a lot of us, merely exist.

The continuing aggravation and frustration which has been and is my experiences while being a client of CT Department of Social Services, continues to grow. While knowing in my head that I'm not alone, this is not beneficial to my deteriorating health. Due to being on three programs at D.S.S., last year within four months, all 3 sets, requesting the same information, including the, now three page long medical update from my Primary doctor. I've requested a Reasonable Accommodation in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, several times. Was told my "chart was flagged, next time, no problem." The problem is, it's not happened. Been hand delivering my paperwork, except the last one, someone helped me. Apparently, because I didn't sign a paper, I received a denial letter, on my Medical paperwork... I understand D.S.S. refuses to remove the auto deny letter sender from any 'progress made to the computer system'. I have yet to go to the 'new' D.S.S. office, already am guessing... no kiosk/number system like at Motor Vehicles or Social Security. Why, does accountability and responsible action or lack thereof, why is ignoring this, continuing to be allowed, at a State/Federal Agency?

Last summer when I opened the "Dear Medicare Medicaid Recipient," letter, it literally dropped me on the floor. The letter of overwhelming confusion, and there was no more \$15 per month prescription co-pay cap for those of us on Medicare and Medicaid. Even more sacrifice, definitely not shared. How much more can people of all kinds of human suffering, or inequality, illness or disadvantage, the humiliation of lack of access to basic human needs, no matter what age, how much will we be able to recover, if at all, the pieces of ourselves that existing and 'making do' without, takes away? Rosa Parks said, "I just want to be treated like a human being." Thank you for listening.

Thank you very much, whoever helps, thank you.

Respectfully,

Barbara Albert