

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
Department of Social Services Budget
February 11, 2016

PLEASE PROTECT THE SAFETY NET SERVICES NETWORK

February 9, 2016

Tanika Campbell
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To Whom it May Concern:

Hi, my name is Tanika Campbell; I am a former recipient of benefits provided by the SafetyNet program. Prior to being directed towards the SafetyNet program, I was receiving cash benefits from the state of Connecticut. These benefits came to a sudden end, and I was at a complete standstill. I felt as though God was somehow punishing me. I had no means to provide for my child, nor did I have the funds to keep a roof over our head. After doing my final interview with DSS, they directed me to the SafetyNet program. This program is not made to give you permanent help, it's made to give you help so you can get back on your feet without the stress of being able to afford your rent. In other words it wasn't a hand out, you had to go out and show proof that you are really trying to get your life together, as these benefits only lasted 6 months. To my benefit I was matched up with Vicki Jones, and she did not play; once again this was to my benefit. On a weekly basis she reassured me that this is not a permanent resolution to my problem. Slowly but surely her words stuck. With her guidance and the assistance of the SafetyNet program, I am happy to say that I am now working, and I am also in school full time. If it weren't for this program I could have ended up in a homeless shelter. SafetyNet as well as Vicki Jones, were a shoulder to lean on when I was down out.

Sincerely


Tanika Campbell