

Appropriations Committee

Re: In the Matter of Gov. Daniel P. Malloy Proposed Budget Cuts

February 17, 2016

Catia Klick, Ability Beyond Employment Specialist

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I have witnessed clients who have lived in isolation and poverty for years transform through a part-time job. My client who suffers from paranoid schizophrenia was unemployed for over a decade. Due to paranoid ideation, he lived only in his kitchen. Through employment services he now has a part-time job. He met his friends and his girlfriend at work. Life has new meaning for him. Community-based services such as employment service are instrumental in facilitating transformations such as my client's. The budget cut that Governor Daniel P. Malloy has proposed is bound to impact individuals with severe mental illness and the community in which we live.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely yours,

Catia Klick, Employment Specialist
Ability Beyond
203-885-9798