

**Testimony of Debbie Anderson  
Appropriations Committee  
February 18, 2016**

**My name is Debbie Anderson and I live in Hartford. I became extremely depressed and anxious when I received a letter from the managing office from my housing complex that my live in aide would have to move out upon my death. It also said that if she were to retire as my live in aide, she couldn't continue to live with me and she would have to move out immediately. Of course, this was terrible news to hear because we had become friends in the last 20 years. CT Legal Rights Project's representation and their request for a reasonable accommodation allowed my no longer live in aide, but my friend Carol to become my legitimate roommate. Thanks to CLRP, we live in our apartment in peace and stress free. If this budget isn't approved for CT Legal Rights Project, it would be a hardship for people with psychiatric disabilities which could result in homelessness because they would have no one to turn to? It could possibly create emergency psychiatric symptoms, such as suicides, more hospitalizations, drug addictions, and confusion for the clients especially as to what they can or cannot do. Unfortunately, there are a lot of people with mental illness that may not have family, friends or church support. It would be devastating to feel abandoned at a time like this.**