

Statement of Natasha Carolina
Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2016

My name is Natasha Carolina, and I live in Waterbury. I have lived in this community for the past 10 years.

I had been a member of one of the mental health social clubs in Waterbury for 10 years when they tried to permanently terminate my membership without even giving me an explanation why. I was so upset, and it felt like I did not have a right to be heard. CLRP took my case. My attorney taught me about the Patient's Bill of Rights and helped me learn that I do have rights. She represented me in the grievance process to help me restore my rights as a member.

CLRP is also representing me in dealing with my landlord, who is refusing to make repairs in my apartment, where the dangerous conditions have caused me serious injury. The federal government has even stopped paying the landlord my rent subsidy because of how bad things are. I need to find a new place to live, but can't do it on my own, so CLRP intervened to get me the case management I need to help me find a new place to live where I can feel safe.

At CLRP, I know they care, and I know they're here for the right reasons. If CLRP wasn't here to help me, I would have lost all of my community supports. I rely on CLRP to protect my legal rights in the community and to make sure that my mental health providers treat me with the respect and dignity I deserve. There's no one besides CLRP to help low-income people with disabilities. They give us a voice when no one would listen otherwise. **PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THIS AWAY FROM US!**