

**Testimony of Leslie Eisemann
Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2016**

My name is Leslie Eisemann and I represent Waterbury, CT. I feel that the cuts that want to be made are wrong and detrimental to the people that they are supposed to protect. I am speaking from experience from learning to have a voice in the Regional Mental Health Board going to testify in Hartford with psycho-social clubs. CT Legal Rights Project helped me find a voice and passion with Advance Directives.

CLRP is a necessity for those of us, such as myself, that are unable to afford a lawyer. CLRP empowers, but also helps to protect our rights.

I may be one voice, but there are many that will come to join against the cuts that are unnecessary. Do not hurt us!! Choice for everyone is MANDATORY.

I myself, am being affected by the Department of Social Services wanting to reduce my companion services. These services are basic HUMAN rights.

Please increase the funding as people who come down the pike are going to need more services. These include: Our vets, youth, homeless, parents with children, undiagnosed, inpatient a person like myself who is living in the community, etc. Please hear us and HELP.