

Testimony of Lesa Ferry
Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2016

Good Evening. My name is Lesa Ferry, and I live in Torrington, which I have called home for the last nine years.

Thank you for listening to my words this evening.

As important as they are to me, they will mean nothing if they are not truly heard by those of you here tonight.

I wasn't always disabled- I had a tragic thing happen in my life which caused the brain injury that I have now and that has left me different than I once was. I was taken by two men who had no regard for my life and didn't care if I lived or died. They took me from my parking lot of my home, and tried to kill me, but God gave me the strength to survive.

I am not at all the person I once was mentally, but in my heart, I am still me. I am now on disability and have to do my best to survive in this world with a lot of obstacles in my way. But I can't always do it alone. I do need hope and support when difficult things occur, like recently, when my home where I have lived in for the last nine years of my life, on my own, was foreclosed. The person who owned the home was my landlord, but he moved out suddenly, leaving without returning a single dollar of my security deposit. I was left very vulnerable, trying to stand up to a bank with lots of money and lawyers that made me feel like I had no hope. Scared, alone, and with no one to turn to, I found help. I got the legal representation I desperately needed when an attorney at Connecticut Legal Rights Project accepted my case just in the nick of time.

All I need is just enough time to find a fair outcome to what I am facing. Fighting not to be homeless, or misplaced, even though I wound up in this situation through no fault of my own. I just want to be able to fight for what's fair, and not to be a burden on anyone.

If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything, and without this help from CLRP, I would be homeless and a burden on society. I alone could not stand

up to the bank's team of lawyers, but with CLRP's help, I stand tall, and feel powerful knowing that there is another voice speaking up for my rights besides my own.

Some lawyers do it for money, some do it for greed, but a few do it because they care deeply about the rights of other people. Without CLRP to fight by my side, I don't know where I would be. Just because I am disabled does not mean I deserve any less than anyone else. Please do not cut the funding to an organization that is the only thing standing between people like me and a life on the streets.