

Statement of Carol Gee
Appropriations Committee

February 18, 2016

My name is Carol Gee and I live in Waterbury. Recently, I received help from Connecticut Legal Rights Project and I want to thank them for representing me in getting access to affordable housing. I had two misdemeanor charges on my record from over fifteen years ago, and my application for a lower cost apartment in Waterbury was denied because of that. I am a member of Mental Health Connecticut's Independence Center, and I was able to attend a workshop about housing rights that was given there by CLRP. After the workshop, I met one-on-one with Katrina, an attorney from CLRP, who said she could represent me in appealing the property manager's denial. She represented me at the hearing, and I won my appeal. Now, I have the option of renting in an affordable housing community, which I need because I have a fixed income of SSI.

If I didn't have CLRP's help, I'd probably end up in a shelter or homeless. I have a mental illness, and I have trouble communicating to others sometimes. The Connecticut Legal Rights Project is very helpful to me because I cannot speak appropriately for myself. I want the people who are trying to cut the budget to realize that for people like myself, who cannot communicate professionally and

who struggle with emotional instability when dealing with others in stressful situations, having an attorney can be the difference between getting a place to call home and becoming homeless or winding up in a shelter and costing the state more money. Please keep the Connecticut Legal Rights Project available to help people who are on the verge of homelessness.