

TESTIMONY OF KELLY SCINTO

Appropriations Committee

February 18, 2016

Good evening to all legislators and to all in attendance here today. My name is Kelly Scinto. Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP) represented me on housing issues both when I was in the hospital and when I was in the community. When I was in the hospital, CLRP helped me break my lease at my old apartment while avoiding any negative consequences. This allowed me to retain my voucher and focus on my recovery while I was inpatient at Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC). CLRP also educated me about housing vouchers and my rights that go along with it.

CLRP also represented me when I left the inpatient unit. CLRP submitted a request for reasonable accommodation asking for extra time for me to locate an apartment using my voucher. I needed this extra time because of my recent hospitalization and I did not want to lose my voucher, a valuable asset. CLRP was successful and I now have until April 1, 2016 to find an apartment.

My life has improved because I'm not constantly worried about the state of my voucher, and I know if I ever have questions I can just ask CLRP and they will clarify things for me.

If I was unable to use CLRP's services I would have lost my voucher- leaving me homeless. I was inpatient and in no position to find legal representation. They are a true asset in the mental health community where not everyone knows how to navigate the system of housing law. Please keep CLRP fully funded. Thank you.