

February 17, 2016

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Honorable members of the Appropriations Committee:

Hi, my name is Eric Walz, Sr.

First I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am before you today to tell you how grateful I am for first of all, all of the state funded programs, and of course for Wheeler Clinic. I cannot stress enough how because of Wheeler Clinic I am at where I am in my life today! I have been dealing with mental [health] and alcoholism for over 30 years. Have almost died 3 times and because of the staff and Wheeler Clinic's available programs for 2 years now it has absolutely helped and allowed me to work on my areas in my life and to save my life! Without Wheeler Clinic and the staff in it, it just simply would have never been possible. Cannot stress enough how people like myself need these programs. Simply said, IT IS LIFE AND DEATH.

Forever grateful for your time and most importantly Wheeler Clinic and the staff around my support network without them I would be dead.

Thank you very much for your time. Please make the right decision.

Eric Walz, Sr.  
New Britain, Connecticut  
**HB-06824: DMHAS Funding Cuts**

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