

**STACY MAY**  
**February 19, 2016**  
**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee**  
**Re**  
**Funding for Legal Aid**

Good evening, Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron, and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Stacy May. I live in Hartford. I wouldn't have my apartment or my job if it weren't for Greater Hartford Legal Aid.

Last February the City ordered me to leave my apartment after the pipes burst and there was no heat. I had no place to go and the City wouldn't give me any help. I went to Legal Aid, and a Legal Aid lawyer told me that I was entitled to relocation assistance. He fought for my right to get relocation assistance from the City all the way to a hearing at the state Department of Housing, which I won.

I thought that I was all set with my new apartment and a new job. Then my employer fired me just before my probationary period was up because of a criminal conviction from 1992. I couldn't believe that they fired me for one conviction from 24 years ago. Again, I went straight to Legal Aid. My legal aid lawyer filed an employment discrimination

case for me. We settled the case with the employer, and just this week I returned to work.

I could have been homeless if Greater Hartford Legal Aid wasn't there to help me. I couldn't fight for my housing and job rights on my own. Because of Legal Aid, I can pay my own way and not be dependent on state assistance.

It would be terrible for the community if you cut legal aid funding. We don't have any money to pay for private lawyers. Legal aid lawyers fight for us to keep the little that we have- food, an apartment, a job.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.