Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee, also to everyone else. My name is Barbara Albert, renter, registered voter in Hartford, CT. I have multiple medical challenges, including Brain Illness and Disorders. I’m on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security Disability. I am an Advocate and Activist with Keep The Promise Coalition, as well as other Human Rights Organizations. I do volunteer work when my illness allows.

This is my testimony, concerning, please, oppose and cuts to the DMHAS Budget, I believe there is no justification for making access to Basic Human Needs even more challenging, and near to impossible than it is. Just because I have several serious chronic medical challenges, including Brain Illnesses and Disorders, yes, plural, does not mean I stopped being a Human Being. “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.” -Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Example: I am one of the faces of “Fallen Through the Cracks”. I’m not non-compliant. I keep hearing from medical people, “I don’t know what else to do for you”, there is also little to nothing in the ‘medicine cabinet’ for me anymore. My allergies yes, are worse. With food, almost anything I eat, ferments inside me. Fine. Except I’m allergic to fermented. No one can help me with this. Being willing to voluntarily get myself sick, again, on purpose, it’s known as “a basic definition of insanity…” there is no ‘pulling my belt tighter’, might end up turning myself inside out. One day I’ll turn sideways, and not be here anymore.

Example: The horrific undue burden, that the A.D.A. Non-Compliant, State/Federal issued cell phones, that come with a ‘pentafold’, that doesn’t help at all are. Don’t have a landline anymore. Am on replacement #6, since last February. No internet where I rent. There’s tech issues, “no cellular service”, not being able to access my account, being charged for things I don’t know, and not being able to understand the ‘alleged’, ‘support services’. Also having to deal with harassing, obscene Robocalls, from the very same company. Am also on a National ‘Do Not Call List’. Those messages are tape recorded, uh huh, ‘old school’. Thankfully, had help filling a complaint with the FCC. Have yet to hear back.

Am requesting, updating, and compliance with the U. S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers, Compliance Board’s, update of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Section 255, of the I.T.C. Refresh. The “Direct Final Rule” date is March 23, 2018.
Basically, these need updating, for compliance purposes, as technology advances. Research started with http://www.access-board.gov. The United States Access Board is “Advancing Full Access and Inclusive for All”. Europe updated by 2015, this is “globally recognized”. Also have been reading that “benefits out weigh costs”. We, people with medical challenges are supposed to have access, AND be able to use, just like anyone else. Not with ‘help’ from a ‘pentafold’, that doesn’t explain, nor even how to answer the phone. A person could use a phone, like in an emergency, say like being sexually assaulted, like what happened to me about six month ago.

Still respectfully suggesting, donation of the Governor’s Horse Guards’ horses to a sanctuary, equals tax write off, and $avings. Dollars to be allocated for Basic Human Needs.

No more inhumanity, please. Thank you for listening.
Respectfully,
Barbara Albert