

Testimony Before the Human Services Committee

PUBLIC HEARING RE: HB6446 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES.

March 4, 2021

CATHERINE PARKER

Bridgeport, CT

Hello, Sen. Moore, Rep. Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee.

My name is Cat Parker and I am a registered voter in the city of Bridgeport.

I strongly oppose the Asset Test Program proposed in our governor's budget, and the more stringent process of redetermination which is already challenging enough.

I have a number of health issues and I am on social security disability. Each of my chronic health conditions require me to see health care providers on a regular basis as well as being on a number of medications that I must take daily. So you have a clear picture of my medical needs I will share with you my medical conditions. I have diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bi-polar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. I require regular doctors' visits and take medications three times a day.

Because my sole coverage is Medicare, I am only allowed treatment at a clinic in which I see interns. I am newly diagnosed with diabetes and I was given insulin to inject with very little to no instruction on how to use it. This created an emergency situation which landed me in the emergency room for more than four hours during a **PANDEMIC**. The only instruction I received was from my pharmacist. My follow up care was nonexistent. Therefore, I had an emergency. My blood sugar dropped dangerously low and not knowing what to do and not being able to get ahold of the clinic I panicked and ate a brunch of chocolate washing it down with soda. No one told me what to do. Once I consumed the chocolate and soda my blood sugar went high because I overdid it. Again, I didn't know what I was doing. Next, while out, my blood sugar dropped again and I became faint and had trouble walking. Therefore, I ended up in the emergency room. What I did not know was that my body needed protein and a carbohydrate along with the sugar so my levels would regulate.

Will you vote to make it even more difficult for me to receive quality healthcare? Another issue of equal importance is the cost of medications. I have so many lifesaving medications that I have to ration some of them because I cannot afford all of them. Do you want to decide which ones are the most important to take? Would you choose my psychotropic medications so I don't hurt myself or anyone else, or my blood pressure medications and risk a heart attack, or would it be easier for you to choose my insulin and allow for the emergency of high or low blood sugar? It is a choice I have to make daily. What would you do if I was someone you loved?

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Cat Parker