

Hello Senator Osten and Representative Walker and distinguished members.

My name is Mary-Ann Langton from West Hartford and I asked Patty Ellis from Windsor to read my statement that I have prepared.

My life has been upside down ever since the Governor gave his State of the State address to the Connecticut General Assembly on February 4th. One of his proposals is to eliminate Community First Choice which is a Medicaid-funded state option made possible by the Affordable Care Act. This allows eligible individuals needing institutional-level care to receive help from Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) and support services at home instead of living in a nursing facility. As of today, there are 7,250 people who rely on this, myself included.

As a woman with a physical disability, requiring assistance for all basic activities of daily living, I have been on CFC since the beginning of this entitlement. I am also proud to say I was one of the principal contributors to the original writing of this state entitlement and, now, I participate on its advisory committee. This program has enabled me to live in the community with 75 hours of personal assistance per week, and, as a result, to be a

very productive disability advocate fighting for civil liberties throughout the state.

I have successfully lived in a housing cooperative for 35 years which I created, with the support of personal assistants. By being on CFC I can be the employer for my pca's and arrange them to come at needed times to help me. I have been able to live a very productive life, giving back to my community and also paying taxes.

Please do not lock me away and let me remain in the community in my own home.