BRENDA TENNYSON- LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY (REVISED COPY)

GOOD MORNING

MY NAME IS BRENDA TENNYSON FROM ANSONIA, CT. I AM A CONSUMER OF BHCARE/VALLEY SOCIAL CLUB SERVICES. I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER FOR 26 YEARS NOW. I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MY SERVICES AND BENEFITS.

I HAVE USED BHCARE SERVICES FROM LEARNING HOW TO CLEAN AS A JANITOR TO HOW TO IMPROVE MY HOME AND HOW I KEEP IT. I HAVE LEARNED THE WRAP, I HAVE COME TO THE L.O.B. TO TALK WITH LEGISLATORS AND SENATORS FOR OVER 15 YEARS NOW AND I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TOLD EVERYONE THE SAME THING NOW.

I HAVE TOLD THEM TO KEEP OUR CO-PAYS AT ZERO. I HAVE ASKED THEM TO STOP THE SPEND DOWNS FROM RUINING MY LIFE AND OTHERS. IN THE PAST I HAVE TOLD GOVERNOR RELL IN A CONVERSATION WHEN WE WERE HERE TWO YEARS AGO, TO LEAVE OUR SOCIAL SECURITY ALONE!

IF THEY TOOK MY BENEFITS AWAY I COULD NOT HOLD A JOB THAT WOULD PAY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE AND THAT MEANS, HAVING AN APARTMENT, FOOD ON MY TABLE AND CLOTHES ON MY BACK. I COULD NOT PAY FOR MEDICATIONS, PHYSICAL THERAPY OR GLASSES TO SEE.

I WOULD HAVE TO MOVE IN WITH A FAMILY MEMBER, WHO I DO NOT GET ALONG WITH. I COULD END UP ON THE STREETS WITH MY HUSBAND, WHO IS ALSO DISABLED AND HAS A HEAD INJURY, WHICH COMES WITH ANOTHER SET OF PROBLEMS.

IN CONCLUSION, WE ARE NOT JUST A NUMBER IN THE SYSTEM BUT WE ARE PEOPLE TOO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.