

To: Rhodelsland1115Waiver

Subject: 1115 Waiver testimony

7/27/2013

I would ask that RI's leadership remove any further steps to put in place difficult obstacles to those of us who are, or who have family members who are facing community based care over institutional care.

With 30 years in healthcare, some of which were spent in the developmental disabilities arena and over 20 in the cardiovascular care and stroke care arena, I find it revolting that these vital support programs will be cut and curtailed. In addition to community based care cuts, we are looking at cuts to respite care, which often is the only thing preventing families who are overwhelmed with care of a disabled family member at home from giving up and institutionalizing their loved one.

We simply must revisit this action regarding the 1115 waiver extension. With leadership above that of many states in the area of care to our aged, chronically ill and disabled, how can we let the state of this care disintegrate into what could be compared to the state of disrepair of our roads, bridges and infrastructure. As we recognize these as priorities, may we also recognize our brothers and sisters, too. People first. Always first. Those in need and those of us who care for them.

Thank you for hearing my plea.

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