

Carolyn Brusetti
Consumer/Peer and Volunteer for NAMI Vermont
Committee: House Human Services
February 11, 2015
Re: Mental Health Advocacy Day

Hi, I am Carolyn Brusetti. I am from Barre Vermont. I am part of NAMI Vermont, America's largest grassroots mental health organization in the nation. I also advocate for myself, I am going to tell a little about me.

I had a very hard time in school and I understand being bullied. Later on, I was diagnosed as having schizophrenia. Consumers need the services we are getting so that we can recover quickly and be a productive part of our community, work, pay taxes and be who we are.

When the budget is cut it hurts all of us. Recovery takes longer if the programs are cut. We consumers do not get the full service we need. The staff and support people do not say to pay the center and staff.

Everyone needs good food for health so we can work. We need housing to be able to keep warm and health and clothing so one can work.

Think how you would feel if your loved one or friend, or neighbor couldn't get the help they need or get service early and have to go to the hospital because of the waiting time to get in to service.

Thank you for your time.