

Testimony

To the Health and Senate Committee

I am slightly over income for Community Medicaid and need to do an Out of Pocket medical expense spend down in order to qualify. The spend down makes me eligible because I am a person with a disability who has very high out of pocket medical expenses.

My spend down is reviewed every 6 months and during that 6 month period my co pays are covered by Medicaid so when it is time to review my coverage I do not have my co pays to use towards my spend down which in turn makes me no longer eligible for Medicaid.

This effects my transportation to my doctor appointments of which I have many. I have missed so many doctor appointments because of this that my PCP is considering discharging me from her practice. If I do not go to my appointments I do not get my medication and my mental emotional and physical health are put in jeopardy.

In addition the Green Mountain Express Medicaid rides staff are not educated in the elderly and disabled program so when I am taken off of Medicaid they tell me that I am not eligible for rides at all. My Peer Advocate counselor then calls on my behalf to explain to them that I am still eligible for rides under Elderly and disabled I am just responsible for paying a fee designated by them. Eventually it gets straightened out but by that time I have already missed numerous appointments.

The misunderstandings and the condescending and aggressive way in which the staff speak to me triggers my PTSD and anxiety. I find myself isolating which causes suicidal thoughts and feelings of worthlessness.

I am just trying to take care of my mental, emotional and physical health and this is so unnecessary! People should be treated with dignity.