

**November 5th, 2019**

**Attention: Appropriations Subcommittee**

**Re: Cancellation of Section 298**

We live in fear as a family due to the mental health budget cuts always being threatened and taken away. I feel if you have a disability such as behavioral health issues and are over the age of sixty-five one should not be compromised of their health benefits because their annual income is a bit over the national poverty level. My mother is over the age of 70 and suffers daily with mental health behavior issues and she would not be here for me or her 5 grandchildren if it weren't for Behavior Health Services. We know the power of support for mental health recovery and the need for ongoing support to maintain that recovery. People with mental illness should not live in fear of losing the support that make them whole.

As we explore our health system for a stronger behavioral health care please consider the residents receiving services which promotes recovery and life ending thoughts. Behavioral maintenance has no simple fix and we do know there are services that are being taken away on a regular basis and this should not be. There are cuts in our general funding always being threatened such as: social work services, therapy, club houses, employment services and support all help Michigan residents to live with meaning and purpose.

Sincerely,

Darlene Jarbou  
Advisory Board Member our House Club House  
Southfield, MI