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Date: July 21, 2015

To: Senator Gene Yaw, Chairman
The Center for Rural Pennsylvania

From: Ashley Potts, Forensic Case Manager
Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.

Re: Heroin and Opioid Addiction Treatment and Recovery Public Hearing
Fred W. Rogers Center, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

Personal Testimony

- A.) Few months about my life as a using drug addict
 - 1.) Started using at a young age, mother is an addict
 - 2.) Drug addiction took me to very dark places
 - 3.) Homelessness
 - 4.) Expelled from school
- B.) How short term treatment did not work for me
 - 1.) Juvenile Probation and outpatient – I did not stay clean
 - 2.) Short term rehab – I did not stay clean
 - 3.) Didn't stay clean long enough to make it to my outpatient appointment- it was scheduled 2 weeks after my rehab discharge
- C.) The benefits of long term treatment and how it saved my life
 - 1.) Completed detox, Long term rehab, halfway house, followed by outpatient and living in a ¾ house
- D.) What I have been able to accomplish because I stayed in treatment
 - 1.) Career, own apartment, college
- E.) How stigma still affects my daily life
 - 1.) How being convicted felon still affects everything I do- housing- employment- schooling