

February 7, 2015

Hi, my name is Linda Beagley and I am here representing NAMI, and opposing the bill SB 123. I am 57 years old and live in rural NW KS in a town named Morland.

I am very grateful to be here today and have a voice in this matter before us.

I must take my medicine every day or I will die.

Twelve years ago I contracted West Nile Virus and nearly died and when the virus stopped ravaging my body I was like a two year old. From then on it was slow, slow healing but I am healing. Due to the brain swelling from the West Nile, I have developed Bipolar 1 and many other disorders and medical issues.

On one occasion I was up for eight days and in a respite center for a month. On another occasion I tried to self medicate because there was no medication for me at that time. I was in the hospital 3 times and am now a recovering drug addict with over two years of sobriety. Recently I was having some problems in which I needed some medication that I could not afford and so I have had to manage on a different one and so I spent two weeks in the respite home for the medication change.

I do not get enough of the right kind of medication due to rules and laws. My body was nearly destroyed in all manner of speaking I take and need lots of medication to survive. It keeps me alive, keeps me out of jails and institutions.

I need help all through the day and the night. I receive about 9000.00 a year to live on. It is impossible for me to pay for certain drugs that I may need but cannot have on my income.

I will be available to answer any questions that you might have in person or over the phone. My phone # is 785-627-2048.

I urge you to vote no on SB 123 because I am only one of many who are out there trying to survive.