Stories Communicate

Your story communicates information to those who need to know how disability affects people’s lives. Stories are personal, not just statistics, and they help others understand your life, your needs and your difficulties as well as your success and contributions.

Each of you will develop a 3 minute testimony on how Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Medicaid has provided the support you need or a family member needs to become more independent.

Independence could mean getting a job, getting job training, providing transportation such as Metro Access, covering housing costs, providing an aide, helping pay for health care, etc.

Emphasis on success is the point today – talk about what is working well for you or your family member because of this funding program. We want listeners to know that things work out well when they are supported by SSI and/or Medicaid.

The topic is the important impact of SSI/Medicaid in making people with disabilities and/or their families more independent and able to support or partially support themselves.

The goal is to convince your audience that SSI and Medicaid funding work and need to continue with no cuts in funding.

Here’s an outline you can use in writing up your testimony:

Your name:

Your ward:

Hello. I am here today to talk to you about the great benefits and importance of SSI and Medicaid funding both to those who need it and to the community where they live.

A few sentences to introduce you or your family member, such as your work, education, housing or whatever you will talk about today. This explains just enough so your story will be easily understood.

About 2 minutes of your story. Pick one or two ways funding assists you in being or becoming more independent and, if possible, about becoming a tax payer.

A few sentences to end the testimony:

That’s why Medicaid and SSI are important and should be continued. I encourage you not to allow any cuts to these funds that so greatly benefit our community.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today. Here is my card. Please call on me if I can provide more information or be of any assistance to you.