

Testimony
Public Health Committee
Budget Hearing
Senate Bill 40, 422, and HB5449
Legislative Office Building
February 29, 2008

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Greetings Senators, Representatives, members of the committee.
I am Janet Auster here to talk with you once again about how urgent it is to adequately fund supportive housing; so that people with a psychiatric disability can stay out of incarceration, please pass Senate Bill 422.

I am in opposition to the implementation of the Governor's supportive housing budget, Senate Bill 40 because it is not favorable to peoples with a psych disability.

I have lived in Shepard Park in Hartford for 20 years. It is by a shear miracle and with a lot of sweat and love of the staff, and my self that I am doing so well.

Shepard Park already allows people who have been incarcerated and have a psych disability to live there; and return if for some reason they are sent to jail. Also senior citizens live there.

It is a blessing because it is away to prevent the destructive sense of seperationalism and isolation. The more integrated our living situations are the better it is for everyone. The more supportive our environment is the more we are freed to find the help we need in our community as well.

Please support supportive housing.

Sincerely,

Janet Auster