

Dear Members of the Appropriations Board,

The intent and purpose of my letter is to strongly urge you to reconsider closing Cedar Crest Hospital on 525 Russell Road Newington, CT.

My Daughter has required long term care at this facility twice. Without a long term care facility for mental health patients, they will not have the care that they need. Treatment plans cannot be regulated at clinics or short term hospital stays. Most often these hospitals and clinics are grossly under staffed and cannot even care for their own patients for other illnesses. In addition to being under staffed, finding a bed for a long term care need is extremely difficult. What typically happens to mental health patients is they do not receive adequate care when they are discharged from short term hospital stays without any assistance and end up back at the hospital within a short time. This is like a revolving door becoming a vicious cycle that the patient can never move on from.

The goal of long term hospital stays is to help patients progress and maintain stability to move on with their lives. Cedar Crest Hospital provides the best services that are necessary to assist in mental health recovery. Without this facility, there will be a very great loss to all of the patients of Connecticut.

The staff and the treatment they provide at Cedar Crest Hospital are the best in the entire State. If we were to lose them, our State would have to build more prisons and detention centers to make up for this loss.

What really is needed in our State are more mental health hospitals and services to address the growing need of our community. Two facilities have already been shut down and we can not afford to lose another one of this caliber. Mental health is a serious condition that our State needs to properly address. Closing down another one is not the answer.

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