

Testimony for Public Hearing
Public Health Committee
March 6, 2009

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Subject: SB 847, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget
Recommendations Concerning Public Health

Greetings Public Health Committee Members!

If I ever had a wish or a dream, it was never to stay at Cedarcrest or Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) for 25 years. I think Cedarcrest should close but I don't think people should have to go to CVH either and stay there for the rest of their lives. I think people with a psychiatric disability should live in loving environments and still be able to have fulfilling lives, lives where they are in touch with their dreams.

It is fundamental to our needs to be able to have our own unique responses to what is being taught us and be able to make our care work for us. After having lived years ago at the Institute of Living for a whole year, I remember that it took me about fifteen years after the hospital to get over the cruelties of the hospital and to live a life of my own surrounded by people who care about me where I can fulfill my dreams. I sincerely and seriously recommend to our Governor that if she wants to close down Cedarcrest, she should make reforms to the hospitals that are, to make sure they are places for recovery and healing and not a death trap. Please realize that the renovations for the hospital are more than just the architecture of the building, they should also be about helping people to be happy being themselves.

Janet Auster