

Testimony of Elizabeth Civitello
Public Hearing, Thursday, September 3, 2009
Cedarcrest Hospital

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislature.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today about Cedarcrest Hospital in Newington, CT.

My name is Elizabeth Civitello, I live in Waterbury, Connecticut and I do have a special interest in Cedarcrest Hospital. My grandson, who I raised, is at Cedarcrest for treatment of Mental illness. He has a doctor at the hospital who cares about him and wants to help him reach his potential in life. I can sleep better at night because I know that the people who work at Cedarcrest are taking care of him and keeping him safe.

We need to have a **public** hospital that is especially for the mentally ill. Many people like myself are not in a position to send our loved ones to expensive private psychiatric hospitals. We need Cedarcrest because it is small enough for all of the staff to know the patients and recognize any changes or any medical emergency or mental emergency and give them the help they need.

We in Connecticut who have receive their medical care from the State of Connecticut need Cedarcrest Hospital. Where will we take our family to keep them out of harms' way, when they need longer term care? We need this hospital to stay open. We need the doctors, nurses, experienced mental health staff, social workers at Cedar Crest. All of the staff do care about the patients. A plan is in place for all. The plan is to find the right treatment. We need the experienced workers and the State of Ct to look out for our family members.

I can rest knowing that he is being taken care of and the goal is to let him come back into the community. Many families in Ct are going through the same thing. We need a public hospital, we need Cedarcrest to stay open. Please find a way to allow the budget of Ct to insure our families will have the mental health care that

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Cedar Crest provides. It's an important part of the safety net, for people like my grandson who need and deserve our help and compassion.

Thank you for listening today.