

**Michael J. Herbst**  
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My name is Mickey Herbst, and I live in Westport. My daughter is supported by STAR Inc., Lighting the Way in Norwalk, CT, a non profit organization that provides support to over 600 CT citizens with developmental disabilities and their families in mid Fairfield County. **STAR and the people we it serves need your immediate help.**

I have been an active advocate for over 25 years, but I have never seen a greater threat to the nonprofit providers. Everyday, people who work with my daughter, and others do the best they can to meet their needs and to assist them to lead healthy, productive and fulfilling lives. The demand for services continues to grow and nonprofits were already fighting to services available in the face of skyrocketing costs of health and liability insurance, utilities and transportation.

Agencies are stretched to the limit. Further stress on the finances will surely result in major loss of services and potentially dangerous conditions. On behalf of the dedicated people working in this field, and the individuals receiving supports please rectify this outrageous budget proposal.

Thank you,

Mickey Herbst