

Good afternoon,

I am an Independent Educational Consultant with a PhD in Education and more than 35 years of experience working with children who have learning and emotional disabilities here in CT. I am very very opposed to funding a facility that would lock girls up! CT has a long dark history of institutionalization. I have been witness to 50 years of history where the state funds brick and mortar to address serious problems with the emotional and learning needs of a specific population. This is not the approach that research supports!!

These girls need Transition Plans starting with a PATH Plan that lays out a possible and probable life for them to heal and become contributing members of society. The money needs to be spent on resources such as educators, therapists, foster family training, supported living in the community, technology relevant to learning and job development, social skills training, and opportunities to have fun and be young.

A locked facility will lead to more restraint and seclusion. An issue that this state needs to address effectively!

Unfortunately, I am unable to testify in person today, but feel extremely passionate about this issue. Don't fund a locked facility! Fund resources.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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