

Dear All,

In May 2013, I finally graduated with my Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) at the age of 46, after a terrible 6-year period of loss of business, loss of spouse, loss of health, repeated loss of jobs due to the Recession, surgeries, and bankruptcy. My home has been and is still in foreclosure.

However, less than 2 months ago, I finally was able to acquire a new job in my new field of MFT with the fabulous Wheeler Clinic - only to hear last week that funding for mental health and social services is in jeopardy. I have finally achieved a place in life where I love my work, help people, and am in a position to save my home.

Will my job be cut?

Some governmental spending is extravagant and unnecessary, for example, and not nearly an exhaustive list:

- 1) DCF: a most important agency desperately needing appropriate DIRECT-SERVICE AND LOGICAL FUNDING, yet SALARIED workers are paid OVER-TIME...in my prior life experience as an accountant, salaried positions mean that it takes whatever it takes to get the job done...NO OVER-TIME COMPENSATION.

- 2) GOVERNMENT CARS: NO NEED for agencies and offices to have fleets; perhaps one or two for client-group transport; HOWEVER, let employees use their own cars, from the highest-level employee (governor) to the lowest-level, and use the IRS Mileage Reimbursement Guidelines, with check-and-balance protocols in place to ensure against improper expense reports. For example, I personally use my car for my intensive in-home client work; I submit a mileage report; my Supervisor checks my submission against case notes I have written to ensure that I have not included anything improper for reimbursement; then the Accounting Department reviews my Supervisor's approval. This is just one example, and there is a myriad of possibilities to ensure against improper expense-report submissions.

- 3) PENSIONS: It is disgusting that pensions are often - if not always - based on base-salary PLUS OVER-TIME! Also, we no longer live in a world like our fore-fathers. Pensions are a drain on society and taxpayers. Convert all pensions to 401K plans, as most for-profit and non-profit businesses have. NO GRANDFATHERING!

FINALLY, to alleviate supplying surrounding states with free transport at taxpayers' expense, ALLOW BORDER TOLLS on HIGHWAYS, yet provide CT residents with an EZ-PASS-type card with a credit on it, perhaps \$100 or \$50 - With today's technology, this is certainly feasible. God knows we are one of the top 5 highest-taxed states in the nation, and 'Main Street's' well-being has been virtually bled dry.

It truly feels as though local and national government care nothing for what regular folks struggle with daily...we are taxed ad nauseum, and have little to save our homes, pay our basic needs such as food and utilities...not to mention GASOLINE to get to jobs IF WE ARE FORTUNATE enough to have jobs! Oh, and maybe it would be nice once in a while to order a pizza or go to a movie! Maybe repair our homes! Maybe go to our Zoo! Maybe KEEP A JOB without worry of funds being cut, and therefore our jobs!

We are tired of feeling like no one cares. We are tired of taxes being raised municipally, state-wide, nation-wide. We are tired. We want to live. Not just survive. We want to live. We want someone to FINALLY and TRULY care.

We want to live in a world where tragedies like Newtown and Columbine and all of the others are non-existent or at a minimum, because children are getting the help they need to learn boundaries and appropriate behaviors and heal their traumas.

We want to live. We want to be happy. We want to be healthy.

Remove the ridiculous and excessive governmental spending to allow our HELPFUL programs to thrive and heal those who need healing, while holding employees and clients accountable for healthy and appropriate living.

From an accounting perspective, it's not that difficult.

From a humanitarian perspective, it's critical.

Help us. Please.

Sincerely,

Jill Badyrka

Human beings are not born once and for all on the day their mothers give birth to them . . . life obliges them over and over again to give birth to themselves.

— *Gabriel García Márquez*

Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

~ *Chinese Proverb*

*Joy and truth both have a way
of peeking through any dark curtain.*

~ *Margarita Engle*

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes
but in having new eyes.*

~ *Marcel Proust*

*Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms, you would never see the true beauty of their
carvings.*

~ *Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*

Be faithful to that which exists within yourself. -- Andre Gide