

1088

This is a Vote of NO on SB 1088.

My sister Christine O'Connell has been living at Southbury Training School for most of her life due to her both physical and mental limitations. She is in critical need of 24 hour care due to a trach for breathing and a feeding tube, due to her many illnesses.

It is clear to me, from first hand observation, most recently in December 2014, that the knowledge, professionalism, dedication and love she is receiving from all of her Nurses and Aides is exceptional at Southbury Training School. As a family we have struggled with the fact that there is no other solution to replicate this knowlege, care, concern, and round the clock 24 hour ability to meet the medical day to day needs of my sister Christine O'Connell.

If you had a sister, brother, mother or father in this facility, you would agree with my position. I challenge you to take a tour, spend some time with the patients and nurses. It will provide you with amazing insight that you cannot get by READING about this facility. Angels walking on earth are the Nurses and Aides who work at Southbury Training School. The only other medical facility that touches this level of quality of care are Hospice Programs throughout the country. I too have firsthand knowledge of these programs, as both my parents met their maker through the love and kindness of Hospice Programs in Branford, CT and Wilton, CT.

I cannot forsee another solution, at this time, for people like my sister, Christine O'Connell. It would be a tragedy to have this facility closed. There is a critical need for such facilities, not only here in CT, but across the US.

It is an imperative to stand up to the challenge to maintain and let facilities like Southbury Taining School flourish due to the critical demand. What is the alternative? There is NONE. If this were your sister, YOU WOULD VOTE 'NO' TO SB1088.

Think about it. Can you sleep at night if you voted for such a tragedy to occur on your watch?

Denise O. Lipkvich