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I have been working with developmentally disabled individuals in Stamford, CT since June 2005. During this time I have observed an erosion of their quality of life beginning in 2010. Consumers who used to enjoy the quality of life which provided three square meals per day acceptable clothing and adequate housing, have been reduced to depending on food pantries to stock their pantries and thrift stores for restocking their wardrobes.

These consumers are beginning to look the part of the disenfranchised community they have been reduced to. The repeated whittling away of the budget they rely on for a decent way of life is scandalous! We as citizens of a state that is considered one of the most affluent in the country, cannot continue to sit idly by and allow this to happen to some of our most vulnerable neighbors! I am convinced that freedom is the only advantage they have over the residents of Connecticut's prisons.

Valerie Ennis