

My name is Linda Snell, and I live in Fairfield. I am the Director of Family Support Services at STAR Inc. Lighting the Way... in Norwalk and have been in the field for over 40 years. In that capacity, I work with many families who have sons or daughters with an intellectual disability.

I strongly oppose the Governor's proposed \$1 million cut to Community Residential Services and \$2 million in cuts to the Behavioral Services Program. These deep cuts will seriously affect so many families and individuals with intellectual disabilities who are either waiting for services or who are currently under served.

I support the CT Community Nonprofits Alliance's request that the legislature appropriate \$461 million over 5 years for community nonprofits. Community nonprofits have experienced deep cuts (at least \$461 million since 2007). This has resulted in program closures, long waiting lists, staff shortages and high turnover rates.

The students with IDD who will be graduating in 2020 will be a group who will face waiting lists for adult services. Agencies who have experienced chronic underfunding for many years do not have the required staff ratios to serve these graduates. These individuals will be forced to wait at home after graduation until appropriate staff can be hired and trained. This will result in loss of skills and will negatively affect families who may be in jeopardy of losing their jobs while they care for their children at home.

These families have asked me what their back up plan could be. Unfortunately I don't have the answer since all the community nonprofits are facing the same challenges.