

Barry C. Bosworth, CPA
23 Bristol Place
Wilton, CT 06897

March 2, 2021

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Barry Bosworth. I live in Wilton. I am a past president of the Arc of Connecticut and a current board member of STAR, Inc. Lighting the Way, a private non-profit organization providing supports and services to individuals with mental retardation. STAR provides early intervention, job development, job training and residential supports to children and adults with disabilities. STAR also provides respite, family support, recreation, transportation and counseling. STAR's staff touches the lives of over 600 people with developmental disabilities and their families in mid Fairfield County.

I know first hand of the excellent and professional work done at STAR, as my child is a recipient of their services. My daughter, Kathryn Bosworth, has Downs Syndrome and lives in a STAR-run group home. She also attends STAR's workshop in the morning and a community intervention program in the afternoon. My daughter is mentally retarded. She is also a truly kind and wonderful person who brings joy to everyone who knows her. I am thankful every day that she is in our lives. I am also very thankful for organizations like STAR who have well-trained and very competent staff to administer the programs that give my daughter a better life and a chance to work and be productive.

I am writing you today to urge you to increase the DDS budget funding to STAR and the other providers to people with developmental disabilities, to bring them a more reasonable rate to cover true expenses and allow for a **fair wage increases**.

With increases in all other areas of expenses, such as health insurance, fuel, etc. STAR has been forced to operate with a deficit. This cannot continue. I urge you to not just provide level funding with last year, but provide a reasonable increase and ensure that persons with developmental disabilities continue to receive the high quality of care that they deserve and that their staff receive a fair wage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Barry Bosworth, CPA
Wilton, Connecticut
203.223.7856
boz.sailing@gmail.com