

Date: Dec 30

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Penney Parkes, Parnet of disabled Adult

Re: STS Recommendations

As a parent of a 23 yr old disabled adult already housed in a group home and off the waiting list, I am in a great position to make recommendations based on our success. The STS needs to be closed. This does not affect me personally, but I do know that this would be a positive change for the state of CT.

An individual functions best in a Least Restrictive Environment that promotes independence. I have now witnessed this first hand as my son's behavioral issues have decreased dramatically in the past 18 months. As a result of this, he is able to spend more time in the community. He is kept busy with activities that put money back into the economy of CT. Please think long term on this issue. It is important to have vision for a strong economy. This does not seem to happen in CT and it is very frustrating as a taxpayer.

Now that my son is independent, I am able to work. This again creates a more stable economy.

There are 2100 parents who are struggling with disabled adults they can no longer provide for. The needs of many are being ignored at the expense of a few.

Penney Parkes
Fairfield