



THE KENNEDY CENTER, INC.
Celebrating the Potential of All People

March 9, 2010

To: The Human Services Committee
From: The Kennedy Center, Inc.
Ref: H.B. 282.

Thank you Senator Doyle, Rep. Walker, Rep Liddy and the members of the Human Services Committee, for allowing me to speak on behalf of The Kennedy Center and its consumers, families, and employees, in reference to H.B. 282.

- The Kennedy Center supports H.B. 282, which requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to delay implementation of the attendance-based reimbursement system until the advisory committee for reimbursements for services under programs administered by the Department of Developmental Services completes its work.
- It is anticipated that due to the many clients who are elderly, and those who have critical medical needs served by The Kennedy Center, our additional loss as a result of this transition to an attendance based system will be \$350,000 per year.
- It is important to factor in how the community provider system is already stretched beyond capacity with three consecutive years without a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), and 20 years of grossly inadequate increases.
- The facts are straightforward. The Kennedy Center's daily organizational costs are fixed. Let me be clear. No matter what the attendance rate, the costs of our day services do not decrease. The Kennedy Center must adhere to the standards of care that have been determined by state and national standards. It is not prudent to, in effect, penalize private providers, which are already struggling for their survival by implementing a 90% attendance rate. Especially when you consider that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) averages an 80-82% attendance rate for the same service.
- The Kennedy Center asks, that we take time to examine all the facts, and not rush to any conclusions that may prove more harmful to the State, to private providers, and to the people we serve.
- Consider how other states use attendance rate payment systems, and how they make practical adjustments based on the needs of the consumers. There are alternative solutions available that will not inhibit the operations of the private provider, nor jeopardize the services rendered to a population that is already vulnerable.

Again, thank you for your consideration in this important matter. The Kennedy Center is committed to working with the legislature, in any capacity that is needed, to address these issues, and determine reasonable practices that will adequately provide for the population we serve.

Martin D. Schwartz
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