

Testimony of Walter Glomb to the Appropriations Committee
on the Governor's Proposed Budget Adjustments
to the Department of Developmental Services

February 22, 2012

Good evening members of the Committee.

I am a parent of an adult who lives with Down syndrome and receives individualized employment supports from the Department of Developmental Services.

I am here today to request additional funding for the Department for the purposes of enhancing our network of private providers, serving individuals who are now on the emergency waiting list and paying the additional costs of self-directed services that will result from collective bargaining with the staff we hire for Personal Support, Individual Home Supports, Individual Day Supports, Respite, Adult Companion, and Transportation services.

Our network of private providers has been required to deliver services for decades without significant increases compared to relevant price and cost indices. There has been no increase at all for at least three years! Yet these are the organizations on which we rely for most of our services. Please increase the budgets for DDS Employment Opportunities and Day Services and for DDS Community Residential Services.

There are still hundreds of individuals on waiting lists for essential services and these waiting lists continue to grow. The needs of these individuals are just as real as those of anyone who is currently receiving residential services. Please provide the funding to serve these individuals. There, but by the grace of God, go I.

Passage of An Act Improving Conditions for Home Care Workers, which is presently in the Labor and Public Employees Committee, would reduce the level of service that my son receives by raising the rate for the service without increasing his individual budget. Every year we stand in front of this Committee side by side with our workers asking for larger appropriations and higher rates for home and community based services at DDS. If you want to help us and our workers, then simply pass an appropriations bill that increases the budgets and rates for DDS services!

Thank you.