

I would like to address the DDS budget, and how it has made a difference in my son's life. My 25 year old son has a developmental disability, and uses DDS funds, channelled through Medicaid. These all-important supports enable him to work at a paying job. Because of DDS funding, he was able to access job development services through the agency NEBA--New England Business Association-and now works two days a week at a local restuarant. He is earning money and paying taxes. The job coach has been invaluable in helping him learn the necessary skills. These employees of the non-profits work tirelessly to help my son gain independence. Of course, we as a family are here to support him every step of the way also, entailing many sacrifices.

In these very difficult budget times, we all need to work together. There are many worthy uses of taxpayers' funds. Please consider the human cost of lost potential, fractured famillies, and added cost that come with cutting the DDS budget.

Thank you for your time.

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