

February 22, 2012

Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am a parent of an adult who lives with Down Syndrome and Celiac. He receives individualized employment support from the Department of Developmental Services and The Arc at the Farmington Valley (FAVARH). Every day he proudly goes to work and performs his job functions with dedication and pride to be giving to our community. He feels fulfilled and speaks highly of his job and job coaches that help him succeed. Without them and the support, he would be sitting at home watching TV all alone with no real purpose in life. These services give him the purpose he needs since people of his abilities cannot compete with normal individuals in our society without the help of these services. Please provide additional funding to enhance the quality of life for individuals with special needs who want so much to give 110% back to the community.