

Dear Legislators:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my concerns with you. We see the need for more active educational programming and supports for children and adults with ASD (autism) as one in 100 of our residents and your voting population are afflicted with this. This makes education and employment especially difficult. The services that currently do exist (the pilot program for 62 individuals) is woefully inadequate. I have attached an article that will give you an idea of the challenges faced by the individuals and their families. WE have to do better so that they can as well. After all \$300,000 is the cost for an inmate for a year in one of our prisons on average versus maybe 10% of that for a period of time to help a person be a contributing member of society. WE will need to make a better choice as the numbers of autistic folks are growing. Please read the article and consider the implications carefully and thank you.

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<http://www.autastics.org/JVRpaper.htm>