

Hello,

My name is Benjamin Strong and I am the father of an eleven year old son with Down syndrome. We live in Trumbull, CT. I'm writing to share our story.

In 2005 my wife and I moved our family to Connecticut because we were impressed with the way the state supported people with intellectual disabilities. We moved from Baltimore, Maryland looking for a more inclusive community, good services and excellent schools. We found everything we were looking for.

After moving to Trumbull we sent in the paperwork to have our son enrolled in DDS. After a period of time we received positive confirmation that our son was eligible for services and would be assigned a case manager. Shortly thereafter we received a letter stating that due to budget cuts, there was nothing DDS could provide.

We turned to the non-profit sector for assistance and found services and help through a wonderful organization in Trumbull, the Kennedy Center. Sadly, we've learned that their funding continues to erode and is jeopardized again this coming fiscal year if even greater cuts are made to DDS.

I urge you and your colleagues to stop cutting funding to DDS and in turn our most vulnerable population. There are alternatives. Please do not abandon people like our son.

Please, no more cuts to DDS or to the non profit organizations they support.

Regards,

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