

Dear Sirs, Madams,

We are writing to strongly urge that there be no budget cuts to DDS, that funding be restored to the wait list, and that full funding be restored to the DDS budget. We live in Cheshire and have a profoundly autistic son who will be graduating this year from school. He is nonverbal and very hyperactive. He requires 1 on 1 supervision for safety purposes. Autistic children need structure around them to keep them calm and to retain skills they have struggled to learn along the way. Without this they lose those skills and can become extremely behavioral. It is beyond the comprehension of others how difficult it is for a family to care for a disabled child without DDS supports. The budget cuts being proposed will prohibit our son from attending a day program (to replace school) and one of us will need to quit our job to care for him, also putting us in financial distress.

With so many families who have autistic or other handicapped individuals to care for, cutting the budget will only cost the state more in the long run as it will force families to require state assistance to replace their lost incomes. It is also important to note that many families caring for a disabled child are one parent homes as well.

PLEASE do not cut DDS funds and restore the budget!!!!!!!

Sincerely

Arthur and Sharon Sides

636 Moss Farm Road

Cheshire, CT 06410

203-271-3378