

My name is Shirley Blaier-Stein and I live in Fairfield, CT. I am testifying against the Governor's proposed budget cuts to DDS.

My son has autism. He receives funding from DDS. He has been hospitalized a number of times and has severe behaviors such as self injury and aggression. A child with such intensity usually cannot stay home and live with his family. We also have a younger daughter whose safety we must maintain.

The funding from DDS helps us keep our son at home. Without this funding, our son would have to live at a state facility and cost the state more!! I know this is the case in many families so I don't understand why change the budget in a way that would eventually create an increase in expenses paid for children like my son.

I request that the Appropriations committee stop the cuts to DDS, and restore full funding to DDS.

Shirley Blaier-Stein
Author of *Autism Mom : New Ways of Thinking*
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