

Written testimony voicing why I am against the Governors proposed budget for DDS.

My husband and I are the parents of a 27 year old son with profound developmental disabilities. He has many physical and behavioral issues including severe self abusive behavior. He can never be left alone and needs total assistance for dressing, bathing, feeding and toileting. We struggle daily to provide the care that he needs as well as a fulfilling and happy life. As he ages we have noticed that his frustration and resulting behaviors have increased dramatically. He has become more aggressive to himself. At the same time our physical stamina is decreasing as we age. We are extremely dependent on DDS services to help care for our son. I don't know how we would manage without it.

Our son is on the waiting list for residential services. Due to the Governors proposed budget for DDS we fear that our hopes for placement for our son are getting further out of reach every year. We worry about what will happen to him when we are no longer able to care for him. We would like to have a plan in place for him before the unthinkable happens.

I also work part time as a nurse at a private provider Day Program for special needs adults. My co-workers and I have not had a raise in many years. It has become impossible for many of them to provide for their families with one job alone. Although I know that they do all they can to provide the best care it's hard to be at your best when you are exhausted. This just is not right right. I am extremely frustrated that the Governor thinks it is ok to cut the DDS budget again. We desperately need a fully funded DDS to provide the services our families need. Our most vulnerable citizens deserve to be a priority in Connecticut.

Thank You,
Brenda Brennan
16 Phelps Rd.
East Windsor,CT 06088