

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

My name is Tom Fiorentino. I live in West Hartford. I have a 24 year old son on the DDS waiting list. I am co-chair, along with my colleague, Jon Slifka, of the Governor's Waiting List Task Force.

First, I fully support the position taken by the IDD caucus: the rescissions already imposed on DDS should be reversed.

Second, the Governor's proposed budget for DDS, as structured, is woefully inadequate, resulting in cuts that are indefensible; and that do not reflect the legislature's long tradition of ensuring that the welfare of Connecticut's most vulnerable is a high priority.

But I recognize how difficult this budget year is for you.

And for that reason, I am begging you to look at some of the wildly inefficient services within DDS as a place to fund some of the services that are being cut under the Governor's budget.

For example, at Southbury Training School, where total salary and wages last year were just over \$49,000,000, the overtime cost another \$16,000,000 - this at an institution where the staff outnumbers the clients by 3 to 1.

And these scandalously high overtime figures plague the whole system: on salary and wages of \$185,000,000 DDS employees racked up \$45,000,000 in overtime. .

There is not a DDS private provider in the State of Connecticut that could get away with a fraction of those overtime costs.

And just to put this in perspective- there were 43 entry level direct care workers at DDS who made more than \$100,000 last year- not including fringe benefits. The highest paid made \$156,783.52. What were they supposed to make? According to DAS between \$35,499 and \$49,571. 3 of them made more than Gov. Malloy.

Go one step up to Worker 2 and there were 79 people who made more than \$100,000 with 11 making more than the Governor. The highest paid

made \$182,857.25. All of the numbers exclude benefits. According to DDS they were supposed to make between \$40,160 and \$54,094.

For an administration that understandably bemoans its past pension obligations, it is unfathomable that they don't see the future pension disaster they are creating by failing to reign in this out of control overtime.

So the bad news we are running an extremely inefficient system. The good news is that this provides an immediate source of funding for people who are desperately in need of services. And for those whose primary concern is state employees, curtailing overtime will not result in the loss of one job.

I therefore urge you to pass a budget where the DDS commissioner is directed to find savings in her public employee personnel line- specifically overtime- and use those funds to serve the people that DDS was created to serve.

To allow the current excesses and inefficiencies to continue- when so many have been waiting so long, and so many are about to lose services- is simply unconscionable.