

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is the Rev. Mel Kawakami, Senior Pastor at Newtown United Methodist Church, located at the heart of Sandy Hook.

I am writing to strongly oppose the Governor's proposed budget cuts to DDS. One of my own parishioners who is caring for a severely autistic child at home would be in grave danger of being unable to do so without I/DD. This would force her child into State care, ultimately costing far more than their assistance now. Please consider the unintended consequences.

I therefore respectfully request that the Appropriations Committee stop the cuts and restore full funding to DDS as well as funding the DDS wait list. At stake is a family's ability to be together and care for their own.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Mel Kawakami,  
Senior Pastor