

March 5, 2015

Holly M. Kocet
2 Karen Boulevard
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Testimony Against the Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts to DDS

To the Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly:

My name is Holly Kocet and I live at 2 Karen Boulevard in Newtown. I am writing today because I believe the Governor's budget cut to the Department of Developmental Services will have a devastating impact on families with severely disabled children.

A very dear friend of mine has a 14 year-old daughter who has extremely challenging disabilities. One moment she is loving and serene, the next she will act out aggressively pinching and scratching family members. She has frequent and frightening outbursts and at 100 lbs. is difficult to manage without the help of specially trained personal who provide home care. Without DDS funding to support this program which provides help to the family, this child would need to be institutionalized, a very difficult and devastating decision for the family.

I respectfully request that the Appropriations Committee stop the cuts to the Department of Developmental Services, restore full funding to DDS, and fund the DDS waiting list.

Sincerely,

Holly M. Kocet