

Dear Governor Malloy-

I am writing to inform you of grave concern and disapproval of the proposed budget cuts to the DDS budget.

My son will be 18 in May. He is severely impaired by Autism, OCD, Stereotypic Behavior, Aggression in addition to limited language. He currently has DDS services which make a tremendous difference to my family - myself, my husband and a younger and older daughter- and most importantly my son. Even with these services we are limited in taking him into the community because he basically a grown man with extensive issues that make it difficult for him to behave in a consistent manner. But this is his right to be part of the community and to learn to manage himself through practice. The staff we are able to hire with this budget work with him and assist us in working with him in a better way to get better results. And it is working! Even with the improvements he had made part of the nature of his disorder is that different behaviors will continue to arise. He will need services for the rest of his life, and, well beyond my husband's and my lifetimes. This is not going to go away for be okay of the budget is cut. We will be in hospitals and emergency situations which will just redirect where the expense of this need will be met...without helping the individual to improve.

I implore you to consider the testimony and stories of the individuals and families that will be harmed by these extensive cuts.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Mahar
8 Farmview Circle
Trumbull, CT 06611