

March 4, 2015

To whom it may concern,

My name is Carrie Langner Miner and I am a resident of Norwich, CT. I am writing to you today to ask you to vote AGAINST Governor Malloy's proposed budget cuts to DDS.

I have a twenty-eight year old brother who would be greatly impacted by these cuts. The Governor has decided that DDS is going to open admissions to the outrageously expensive public group homes like Southbury Training School (about \$350,000/person), but not provide any money for admission to private provider run group homes (about \$130,000/person). These admissions are limited to DDS clients classified as "Emergency," meaning last remaining caregiver has died. So, in order for an individual with disabilities to qualify to move into a home of their own, their caregiver has to die! They should be allowed to transition into a new home with the support of their caregivers and not ripped from the home/environment they have lived in and quickly placed in the first available spot. Also, why would we spend more money on the expensive public group homes and not have any admission to the private provider run group homes? The Governor's budget makes no sense!

My brother was lucky enough to have been awarded residential support money last year, but it will take up to two years to find a roommate who has also been given money. The likelihood of that happening is very slim. And my parents have been told that sometimes DDS takes back the awarded money if you have not used it!

The Governor has also decided that after June 2015, no high school graduates will receive day supports (money I/DD clients use to hire support staff so that they can work). As a former special education teacher, this infuriates me. Many of my students would need additional support after high school to help them transition into a work environment. I/DD clients want to have jobs and be part of a community. By cutting the money to support staff, these individuals will be left to just stay home and that can be devastating to their emotional well being.

On Friday evening, March 6, the Appropriations Committee of The General Assembly will hear testimony from members of the public on the Governor's proposed budget. **I urge you to request that the Appropriations committee stop the cuts to DDS, restore full funding to DDS, and fund the DDS waiting list.**

Thank you,  
Carrie Langner Miner