

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2015

Sashae Terry - Waterbury C.T

I'm testifying AGAINST the Governor's proposed budget cuts to DDS.

As a home health aide to a young girl with development delays, physical behaviors and Autism. I see first hand the need for this program.

As someone who doesn't personally have children but three younger siblings. I am able to see the contrast between them and her. With them (my siblings) they are able to answer simple questions. What hurts? How long has it been hurting? How was your day? What did you do at school? Are you tired? Etc.

On the other hand. Its always a guessing game with a child who has special needs. There's rarely a winner. Their way of telling you something can be and the form of a scream, stretch, pinch, and pull (of hair, clothes and jewelry)Etc.

From my personal experience, the amount of toll that this puts on the loved ones is very significant. I would say put yourselves and their shoes. But that's not possible. No one (not even I) will be able to. The only way anyone can is to have a special needs child.

Imagine planning a vacation. Paying for the plane, hotel and the attractions. But having to cancel last minute. That's what everyday plans are for someone caring for people with special needs. You don't know what the day holds for you. What an awful feeling!

As a caregiver when my shift is over I go home. However her loved ones don't. They work 24/7 no PTO, breaks or sick time. Because of this program, I am able to provide care and be the helper they need. It's not about the pay but that satisfying feeling of knowing I make a difference.

These families have to sacrifice enough. If you cut this budget. Your doing more damage than good. You will be snatching the rug from under which they are barely able to stand upon.

Please think of them. The best decision you can make is to provide more funding. Don't affect the ones whom have already been effected enough.

Now I would like to request that the Appropriations committee stop the cuts to DDS. And restore full funding to DDS. Also asking that you fund the DDS waiting list.

Take a long minute and think of NOT yourselves. But rather them because they DO matter. Send the correct message not the incorrect one.

Please and Thank you,

Sashae U. Terry