



Re: Governors Budget
Cut to Independent Living Centers

Good afternoon, thank you in advance for giving me your undivided attention. My name is Donald James, I'm 65, a register voter and a tax payer.

I'm here today to talk about the Governors budget and the fact that he cut funds to the states 5 Independent Living Centers (ILC). The ILCs and the Protection and Advocacy for People with Disability are the foundation for the safety net which People with Disability depend on.

I needed help while I found myself living in a homeless shelter for six weeks. Independence Unlimited helped me fill out rental applications and provide moral support during a difficult time in my life. While working for the Bureau of Rehabilitation I depended on all 5 ILCs services as I was working with consumers to be more independent and preparing them to work with their councilors.

By not providing the money that the ILCs depends on to run the programs that support their consumers not only prevent our consumers the needed support but will cost the state more in man power and/or institutional placement.

If the funding for these centers are restored in the budge it will only send a message to are community that our safety is not portent.

Sincerely,

Donald James