

My name is Lorraine DeFreitas. I live in Vernon and am testifying against the Governor's proposed budget cuts to DDS and Medicaid.

We worry about how further cuts will impact both residential and day program supports our daughter currently receives.

Previously, DDS residential med certified staff assisted with medication administration. When DDS transferred this budget item to the Medicaid budget, our daughter can no longer receive assistance on a daily basis. As a result, some medications can only be administered weekly by the VNA instead of daily as requested by the doctor. A 48 hour delay can occur before my daughter can receive assistance with new medications.

Residential staff attending medical appointments cannot complete/update doctor's forms adequately or ask questions regarding health issues. For these reasons, I try to attend all doctors' appointments with my daughter. What happens when I can no longer attend these appointments?

Psychological services considered necessary for health reasons use to be annualized in the DDS consumer's budget. This was transferred to PRAT Team review every 3 months and now is being transferred to the Medicaid budget. The family believes changing Psychological services to a Medicaid provider who has limited experience with DDS consumers will be devastating.

Budget cuts to Day programs is decreasing work opportunities. Our daughter use to be able to deliver meals on wheels, work in the Senior Center and be able to stay on campus to do piece work. Now her day program is limited to meals on wheels.

The time to stop cutting the DDS and Medicaid budget is now! It's time to restore funds to DDS.