

As parents of a 42 year old autistic daughter we are extremely concerned that no further cuts are given to private providers during the next several years! In fact we are equally concerned that DDS employees make more than twice the wage, have better benefits, receive a cola adjustment every year when private provider's employees have received ONLY a 1% cola in the past 8 years and earn half the wage! We cannot sacrifice the quality of care that is provided by these private providers. In every case where the private provider has taken over a DDS run group home the quality of services have exceeded the care provided by state workers and the cost to provide these services have gone by more than 50%! Just ask the parents!

CT's system needs to be revamped to reflect the current needs as these consumers are living longer and desperately need these services to be continued at a minimum at the same level.

We would strongly suggest a group of your legislators visit several of the private providers day and residential programs so you can see how dedicated these employees are and the quality of services they provide.

If the private provider is forced out of business if the state need to provide these same programs you are looking at an increased budget in excess of a billion dollars each year!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT NOW! We thank you in advance!**

Respectfully submitted,

Gil & Dorothy Kellersman  
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