

My name is Cindi Gardner and I reside at 14 [Dairy hill Madison, CT 06443](#).

I am writing this letter in response to the proposed budget cuts from Governor Malloy concerning DDS, HB 624.

I have a twenty one year old nephew with Autism named Mark. Mark is wonderful young man but unfortunately suffers with a very low IQ and limited social and verbal skills making it very difficult to communicate his feelings to others. Our family has lived our entire lives with Mark hoping that he will stay calm and not lash out at us with his fists over his frustrations or mood swings . Family gatherings are important in our lives, but very difficult for Mark and my brother's immediate family .They rely heavily on the DDS staff that comes in to give them help to support them with techniques on how to cope or simply another set of hands to handle outbursts. Without help they miss out on so many opportunities that other families take for granted.

My brother , sister in law, niece and nephews need all of the support and help they can get. My family implores the Governor and the Appropriations Committee to stop the cuts to DDS and restore full funding to DDS. I would also like to see full funding for the DDS Waiting List.

Thank you for your consideration
Cindi Gardner

Sent from my iPhone