

I am Marianne Tapp and a resident of Tolland.

My niece, Lisa DeFreitas, is a Special Needs adult.

When her medical and psychological supports are in place, she is a wonderful, loving, helpful, productive person.

Her mother and father, her DDS manager, and her Agency have worked so very hard to provide Lisa with the services and doctors she needs.

It has taken years to achieve this.

Now all the progress Lisa has made and the positive work done by her supporters is threatened due to cuts in the DDS and Medicaid budgets.

Unfortunately, Lisa is just one of thousands in the state who would be affected by budget cuts.

As citizens, it is our duty to help those who can not help themselves.

I urge the Committee not to cut but restore funding to the DDS and Medicaid budgets.