

Dear Sirs,

My name is Elena DePalma, I live in North Branford, CT and I am the sister/guardian of my 55-year old brother who has Down Syndrome. I am writing to testify against Governor Malloy's proposed budget cuts to DDS.

My brother has been receiving services from DDS for the majority of his life. Without the services provided, his quality of life would be seriously compromised.

Ability Beyond in particular, is a best-in-class provider, having supported my brother with job support and group home services for many, many years. The staff have become like family members to him and look after him regarding his needs as if he were their own. This has become particularly critical as he is aging and experiencing numerous health issues. They assure that he has a safe and comfortable home to live in, is fed a nutritionally balanced diet, and engages in available and appropriate activities and social interaction. Without the continuation of these services provided, I fear for what the future might bring for him.

I implore the appropriations committee to stop the cuts to DDS, restore full funding and fund the DDS waiting list.

Respectfully yours,
Elena M. DePalma