

Senators Fonfara and Berger and other committee members,

Testimony Regarding S.B. 1135: An Act Establishing a Sustainable Path for Maintaining the Budget Reserve Fund and Reducing the Effect of Revenue Volatility on the State Budget

I submit my testimony that monies for DDS should be restored and kept at a significant and high level for the future. Simply the governor is wrong. Should his proposed budget pass it will be tantamount to abuse of the physically and intellectually disabled in our state and the responsible Governor should be arrested and prosecuted for this abuse.

I am writing to you in protest of the DDS cuts in the budget. I am the father of a disabled young daughter Dominique. She is 18 years old has cerebral palsy, seizures and can speak only in 2-3 word utterances. She is completely dependent on us, her mom and dad for all her needs, bathing, toileting, feeding, she cannot even roll herself over when she sleeps. We have no family in the state to assist us and so all her care is upon us and we struggle to pay for help so we can maintain our jobs and home. We are getting old and soon will not be able to care for her on our own and we will need state help, but thanks to your proposed budget cuts none will be forthcoming. Know I recognize how politically expedient it is to balance a budget on the backs of disabled adults... why not? All have no money to support a reelection, many cannot walk nor drive, pick up a phone or even speak. Most cannot even understand how your actions jeopardize their wellbeing. I like every parent want the best for my children. With my 18 year old daughter my goals are modest, I just want to make sure that her happiest and most secure years are not already behind her, they may be though due to your actions. I believe that government can do great things, certainly one of the greatest must be to protect and assist those who cannot speak for nor help themselves. Cutting funding for such disabled people, while having 20 year wait lists for supported homes and poor respite care funding in a wealthy high tax state such as Connecticut demonstrates that our priorities are upside down. I call on you to reverse your recent cuts and to fully fund the needs of the disabled in our state. You don't believe in this help? Then I invite you to visit my daughter and spend a day in her life at our Westbrook home. Do the right thing restore and maintain the funding for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

Mark and Janet Plummer of Westbrook, CT