

We are parents of a 35 year old daughter with significant physical disabilities and communication limitations because she is nonverbal. We watch her struggle daily to be understood and to be appreciated for her abilities and the unique insight she possesses. She and other people with intellectual and physical deficits desperately need the programs that DDS provides to help them feel a purpose in their lives. We are very supportive of the efforts of SB918 which will require DDS to create a comprehensive sustainable plan by July 1, 2017 to provide appropriate beneficial services for eligible individuals who are in need of the valuable array of services which will allow them to maintain healthy, safe lifestyles. Day programs and vocational services allow people with developmental and intellectual disabilities to live happy, fulfilling lives because they feel productive and have a purpose to their lives. Community residential placements, in-home supports, respite care, and emergency care allow them to live in safe, comfortable settings where they can lead active lives. Please consider the needs of well-deserving, less fortunate individuals than yourselves and support SB918.

Thank you for your kind consideration. It is a worthy cause you will be supporting when you pass SB918.

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