

To Appropriations Committee

From Martha Russell

Feb 17, 2016

Re: House Bill No. 5044

An act making adjustments to state expenditures for the fiscal year ending June30, 2017.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

My name is Martha Russell . I am the parent of some one with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as a teacher and an advocate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony opposing HB5044 that will cut all ready inadequate services and support to people with I/DD.

Currently, more than 2100 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are waiting for residential or home services.

Our community has all ready sustained disproportionately high cuts in past budgets and we are looking to you to stop this from happening again. This is a matter of fundamental justice.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are among the most vulnerable members of our society and the least able to advocate for themselves.

Please do all in your power to stop this bill going forward. Our precious children need your help if they are to reach their full potential. They wish to help and contribute in this world as we all do, but they need help in order to do so.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Martha Russell