

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

02/17/2016

My name is Michael Donovan, 28 Quaker Ridge Rd, Bethel, Ct 06801. My phone is (203)743-4266. I am writing on behalf of all developmentally disabled citizens of our state, more specifically, on behalf of our son Stephen Donovan. Stephen is a 41 year old severely developmentally disabled man who is being served by a non-profit, private provider Ability Beyond. I am appealing to you because our family is scared to death for the future well-being of our loved one. We know that you are up there in Hartford struggling to find ways to fix our broken financial mess. We are well aware of the competition for funding between the public and private sectors. Everyone also seems to know (we think) the cost benefits of adequately funding the private sector. Yet it seems that year after year the financial situation doesn't get better, it gets worse. It seems that too many in our state government are beholden to the powerful special interests whose salary and benefits is helping to bankrupt our state coffers. Our son Stephen is a special interest; he is our special interest. He doesn't have much money; he doesn't vote; he has no lobbyists fighting for him; he is just one vulnerable human being-along with all our other developmentally disabled citizens-who needs some good, decent, moral leadership. Please, find ways to support the private providers. Find ways to put our minds at ease by doing what is necessary to fix our broken system. Our son is being well cared for. He has a rich social life; he is healthy and happy. We would like to be much more secure in knowing that his future well-being will be provided for. Thank you.