

March 20, 2012

Dear

I am deeply concerned over the proposed state budget beginning July 1st. Included in the proposed budget is the Community Block Grant for counties across the state with a 20% reduction in funding.

I have been notified by our county IDD representative that county services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities may be terminated if the budget passes as proposed. This is absolutely unacceptable. This administration must stand behind their assurance that assisting our citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities IS a core responsibility of government.

How do I tell my loved one that he won't be helping out at the library or going to the movies with his friends anymore? Summer camp is anxiously awaited each year. Apparently you don't think these services are very important. You are wrong. Services like community habilitation and summer camp are the vehicle of opportunity for children and adults with IDD who have no other chance to be with friends and enjoying life in their communities. It is very important! During this time, I can tend to other family members knowing that my child is safe, happy and experiencing new things.

Please stop taking the little bit that our children have. Stop making them the scapegoat of your budget and honor your commitment to our most vulnerable citizens. This is cruel. You cannot cut the budget for county services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,