

Sample Letter

I am aware that the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Developmental Disabilities has reduced funding for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year funding has been reduced in waiver programs. Next year, with the proposed Community Block Grant for counties, funding may be further reduced to the point where some individuals may lose community services. These reductions are in addition to years of underfunding.

Today, there are 16,000 Pennsylvania citizens currently on the waiting list for services and 3,000 of these individuals have caretakers over the age of 60. Children with special needs now graduate from high school and have no where to go. Funding for services is not available therefore their names are added to the waiting list. Families are stressed and scrambling to find ways to care for their loved one. This is appalling.

In his campaign, Governor Corbett said that caring for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, a vulnerable population, is a core responsibility of government. This administration has failed to meet this responsibility.

Community services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities must be adequately funded. Vote no to the Community Block Grant. Vote no to the reauthorization of Act 22 which gives the Secretary for the Department of Public Welfare the right to "red pen" budgets without legislative approval.

I implore you to do the right thing.

Respectfully,