

Date:

Addressee:

Address:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

As an employee of a Human Service organization, I am writing to you expressing my concern over the proposed budget effective July 1, 2012. Unanticipated budget reductions will have a serious impact on county services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. If services are reduced or lost, then staffing will not be needed and jobs will be eliminated. Your decisions will have a profound ripple effect.

For more than 50 years, Pennsylvania Governors have shown a bipartisan commitment to maintaining and expanding funding for community-based services for people with disabilities. Home and community-based services are cost-effective. If these services are cut, people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, might be forced to enter state institutions, which cost more than twice as much as community services. The only source of funding for services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities is state funding (with federal matching funds). The costs of these services cannot be shifted to private payers, such as insurance companies, that do not fund these services.

I know that Pennsylvania is facing a difficult financial situation and that you must make budget decisions soon. I am writing to ask that you protect funding for community services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. During your campaign, you stated that "meeting the human needs of vulnerable Pennsylvanians is a core responsibility of state government." Those words will mean nothing if you cut funding for these vulnerable people. Across-the-board cuts cannot be absorbed by providers. Cuts in funding to providers will mean cuts in services.

Please do not forget or overlook the needs of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and the direct care workers who provide needed services when you are setting budget priorities.

Sincerely,