



## SAVE THE DISABILITY SAFETY NET FY'11 Conference Committee Budget Requests

Dear Senator or Representative:

Critical funding for people with disabilities is at stake in this year's Conference Committee. Even if all our Conference Committee preferences are accepted, 939 individuals and families with disabilities in DDS and MRC will lose essential residential, employment, transportation and family supports/respite services. If the Committee rejects our preferences, this number balloons to 2,256.

Please support the House versions of:

1. Day/Employment Programs 5920-2025
2. Family Supports (Respite) 5920-3000
3. DESE-DDS Program 5948-0012/ 7061-0012
4. Transportation Services 5911-2000

And the Senate versions of:

1. Community Residential 5920-2000
2. Autism Division 5920-3010
3. State Operated Comm. Services 5920-2010
4. Admin/Operations 5911-1003

### Key Facts:

- **Community Residential** -- Serves a total of 11,000 individuals in the community providing them with the most basic of services: shelter. There is already a 600-person waiting list. Nearly 200 people will lose homes in the House version. **Support the Senate version.**
- **Family Support (Respite)** -- The most cost-effective of DDS's programs. Already has a 3,000-person waiting list and was already cut by nearly \$10 million last year. Now, the Senate version would cut 750 more people from the rolls. **Support the House version.**
- **Day/Employment** -- Helps people with disabilities get and maintain jobs in the community with job training and job coaching. Under the Senate version, 450 people would lose these services and potentially have nowhere to go during the day. **Support the House version.**
- **DESE-DDS Program** -- Helps keep families together and saves the Commonwealth money in the long-term by allowing children to stay home rather than seeking residential placements. The Senate budget would cut 200 people. **Support the House version.**
- **Not to mention** -- In addition, under either budget, at least 63 will lose **Transportation** services, **180 will not get Turning 22 services** and at least 385 will lose **MRC Extended Employment or Brain Injury services.**

Finally, please support language that is good for the disability community regarding closing the state's outdated institutions (as was the case with Senate Ways & Means' original language). This means:

1. It is fine to review process and compare costs
2. DO NOT include language that slows down the Governor's closure plans

**Delaying the Administration's plans will only hurt the 33,000 individuals and families who get services daily through DDS.**

Thank you for your consideration!