

Theresa Utton

Subject: FW: Cuts in DS Services

> Date: Tue, 12 Aug 2014 14:05:47 -0500

> From:

> Subject: Cuts in DS Services

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> Though I am out of town right now and can't appeal to each of you individually, please do not accept Gov. Shumlin's suggested cuts in DS services. I am a parent of a Developmentally Delayed adult who lives at home with us and I am also a member (for many years) of the State Program Standing Committee which oversees the DDS section of DAIL.

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> I know the personal and systemic effects of cuts. The Governor says they are responsible and will not hurt individuals or their families -- to that I say, "Hooey!". When a family begins to work through cuts with their Designated Agency, many items on an individual budget are "held harmless". In other words, the effect of a 3% budget 'recission' is not felt across the entire budget, but is concentrated on Direct Services, respite and other extremely important items. The last time I went through an exercise like this with Jessica's budget, the supposed 2% recission came out to a 7.7% cut in services! I can't even begin to explain how such a cut reverberates within a family. All of the carefully constructed and precariously balanced 'life decisions' are suddenly and arbitrarily undermined. And like any complicated system, each piece is interconnected and interdependent. I challenge anyone to take 8% out of a (very) tight budget and not feel pain. Do that for a multi-handicapped adult and what do you imagine the results are going to be?

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> I could continue this plea for quite some time, but succinctly put, I am asking you: Please, force the Governor to think these things through before reacting.

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> Joe, Barbara and Jessica Greenwald

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