

Subject: Stop Cutting Funding to Disability Services!

As a (family member, advocate, nonprofit staff member), I am shocked to learn of the current threats to cut more funding that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Please consider the following: 40% of providers approaching fiscal insolvency - \$174M in COVID related expenses and lost revenue as of May 2020 - \$230M annually in residential cuts -\$60 million in yearly withholds = severely reduced capacity to deliver life preserving services for people with I/DD and their families.

\$2.5 billion in cuts and \$5 billion in deferred investments over the years that further destabilized providers, is our backdrop to the COVID 19 pandemic. When COVID hit, increasing sickness and death among residents and staff, scarce PPE and expenses for hazard pay and overtime presented a nearly impossible situation. Sadly, the death rate for people with I/DD is much higher than that of the general population.

Providers' loss of revenue and the additional expenses, including PPE, hazard and overtime pay added up to a loss of more than \$175 million. In May, we learned of an additionally \$230 million cut to residential providers effective 10/1/2020 for days that people are away from their homes due to vacations, visits with families and hospitalizations. Then in July we learned of an additional \$15 million per quarter/20% withhold on State-only funded services.

Providers were already financially unstable with a recent New York Disability Advocates survey revealing that 40% of non-profits now have less than two pay periods of cash on hand.

We understand the State's financial crisis, but these cuts to the I/DD sector will create unneeded harm and misery and increase the cost of services: Emergency Room visits, hospitalizations, nursing homes and State Operated services could soon be the only options left. People's lives hang in the balance of the moral and fiscal choices being made, including revenue generators and cuts. New York State must examine the fiscal and human consequences of these decisions and remember its constitutional obligation to New Yorkers with I/DD.

Please think of me, my family, the people I support and stop the cuts to support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities!