

LETTER TO SENATE

[insert date]

Honorable [insert Senator's name]
Member of New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator [insert Senator's last name],

The 30-day amendments to the proposed 2013-14 Executive Budget contains a major cut to the voluntary not-for-profit provider sector that if enacted will have serious implications for the system of supports and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Governor is proposing to cut 6% from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities' (OPWDD) budget and the cut is specific to the voluntary sector. I believe this cut is targeted, unfair and disproportionate. As my representative in the State Senate, I respectfully request your leadership on this important budget item and reverse the cut.

If enacted, the cut will negatively impact the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, individuals who are most in need of important supports and services by agencies that employ over 75,000 direct support professionals throughout the State of New York. If forced to absorb a 6% cut, agencies will have difficulty complying with important health and safety regulations, the ability to deliver services at current levels will be diminished and critical staff shortages will result.

As negotiations on the State Budget continue, I urge you to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by restoring the cut to OPWDD.

Sincerely,

[insert name]

[identify if you are a parent, direct support professional and/or self advocate]