

# Petition

## To Support Principles that Protect Persons with Developmental Disabilities

We, the undersigned, urge you, as a member of the state legislature to keep in mind the needs of citizens with developmental disabilities as you work on the 2009 – 10 budget. We urge you to embrace the following principles that are essential for maintaining meaningful, effective service to our most vulnerable citizens.

- **Any cuts must be as far from the lives of people with disabilities as possible.** Before we reduce services to people with developmental disabilities, we must look at areas of underutilized resources, redundancy, unnecessary bureaucracy, and paper compliance.
- **The Individual Program Plan, the central element that drives our system, must be honored.** Decisions made by people with disabilities, their families, and those who know them best must drive services. No bureaucratic process should substitute for their judgment.
- **All people, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, are entitled to community living.** No one should be in a place that prohibits them from the ability to access and participate in community options. Institutions are such places. While we realize this could be a choice for some persons and their families, by the nature of their physical location and isolation, they may inherently and unnecessarily limit the life choices of people with disabilities.
- **The Crisis Impacts the Entire System – No component, including DDS Headquarters, Developmental Centers, Regional Center operations or Purchase of Services, should be automatically exempt from review and appropriate reform.** Not all elements of the system were subjected to the 3% cut. Notable was the fact that the state-owned and -operated developmental centers were not included.

Return Petition to:

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