

April 10, 2014

To: Members of the Legislature  
From: Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro  
Subject: Budget Support Request: Developmental Disabilities

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During a time of repeated and extreme budget deficits over the last decade, the Legislature has made severe cuts to the already overburdened and underfunded developmental disability system. Inadequate rates, services, and policies have hindered California's ability to meet the basic obligations to the thousands of Californians with developmental disabilities. Recognizing we are still under a time of budgetary caution, it is time to reinvest in this population that is in dire need of our assistance. I hope you will join me in supporting a reasonable plan to stabilize this crumbling system of supports and services and make cost-efficient investments in some if not all of the following areas.

1. Support the plan for the future of the developmental centers developed by HHS Secretary Diana Dooley's task force, and ask the administration to submit implementation steps in the May Revise.
  2. Increase provider rates and regional center operating funds by 5% as a down payment on system sustainability.
  3. Direct the administration to begin work on a rate structure that covers the actual costs, something we haven't seen in years. This is consistent with Secretary Dooley's plan to focus on the community services and supports system between now and 2015.
  4. Invest in early intervention for babies and toddlers at risk of developmental disabilities. We know that lack of these services, eliminated in 2009, already is increasing state costs as these children develop life-long disabilities.
  5. Invest in employment services for adults with developmental disabilities, one of the best paths to integrating people with development disabilities into the wider society.
  6. Allow regional centers to cover co-payments and deductibles for autism and other developmental services now covered by private insurance. Senator Steinberg's hearing found reports that that prohibiting regional centers from covering these costs actually increases state costs later.
  7. Invest in supporting the family caregivers with the programs that build on their resilience and strengthen the families caring for people with developmental disabilities at home.
  8. Repeal other failed policies that save the state nothing and in some cases cost more.
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Yes, I would like to support the developmental disability community's Budget proposal to keep the promise to Californians with Disabilities

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Member Name

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Member Signature

Please return this form to the office of Assembly Member Chesbro, Room 2141, or fax to (916) 319-2102. If you have any questions, please contact Chantel Johnson at (916) 319-2002.