I am writing to ask you, my elected official, to support an 8% increase across the board for all Regional Center funded services for people with developmental disabilities. As you know from the document titled “DDS 2019 May Revision Highlights”, the current number of individuals with developmental disabilities served in California by the Regional Center system is estimated to be 333,524. In 2019-2020 this number will increase to 350,487.

Each of these 333,524 people is a unique individual born with gifts, talents and skills that they can, and should, contribute to their communities throughout California! This number also represents a huge block of *actual and potential voters, tax payers and citizens* who want to be included in their communities.

All people, including those with disabilities, have the right to choose to **work and live** **in their communities**, NOT in segregated group settings. The Regional Center is tasked with upholding the rights for people with developmental disabilities. You, as *my representative*, have the power to make sure they are funded to do this.

Each person served by the Regional Center system needs specific and individualized support services in order to **work and live in their community**. The most effective and thoughtful supports are delivered by *well trained staff*, who are paid a *living wage*, and are able to offer their energy and attention to *one person at a time*.

The recent May revision includes funding for some important services, however there is a group of people who *will* fall through the cracks if we don’t speak up! These people include those that *will not qualify* for Supported Employment services, and need access to **customized** **employment** services through the Regional Center. In addition, those that live at home with their families, who want to access their communities through day programs, remain at risk of losing their services due to a severe lack of funding.

Please keep the promise to uphold the civil and human rights of people with developmental disabilities by supporting an 8% increase!

Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am a family member or friend of a person with DD

I am a Direct Support Professional working the field supporting people with DD

(Additional background about my specific experience/perspective)

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